

\$5



goal!!

W e e k l y

A-League Round 2 Friday 14th Oct - Sunday 16th Oct 2011



Souvenir Poster Inside
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A-LEAGUE ROUND 2
Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory
Sun 16 Oct AAMI Park 5pm

This Week's Line Up

**WORLD CUP:
SOCCEROOS SURGE
AHEAD**
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2 MATCH PREVIEWS**
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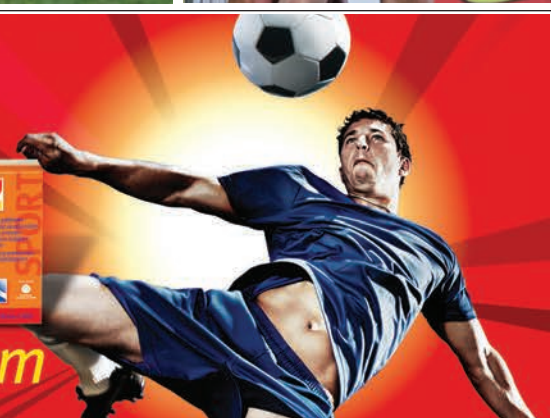


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SOCCEROOS IN DRIVING SEAT FOR NEXT ROUND




World Cup 2014

Mike Salter

Socceroos



3

Oman



0

Match Details

Australia 3 (Brett HOLMAN 8', Josh KENNEDY 65', Mile JEDINAK 86')
OMAN 0

Date: 11 October 2011
Competition: World Cup qualifier, Asian Football Confederation, Round 3
Venue: ANZ Stadium, Sydney
Kick-off: 7.30 pm
Referee: Kovalenko VALENTIN
Assistant Referee: Ilyasov RAFAEL and Mohammed AL HOOTI
Fourth Official: Tseytlin VLADISLAV
Attendance: 24,272

Australia
18 Adam FEDERICI; 2 Lucas NEIL; 2 Michael ZULLO (10 Alex BROSCUE 87'); 3 Rhys WILLIAMS (23 Robbie KRUSE 72'); 7 Mile JEDINAK; 8 Luke WILKSHIRE 82
9 Josh KENNEDY (19 Neil KILKENNY 90+1'); 14 Brett HOLMAN; 16 Carl VALERI; 17 Matt MCKAY; 22 Matthew SPIRANOVIC

Unused substitutes: 6 Sasha OGNEN-OVSKI; 11 James TROISI; 12 Nathan COE; 13 Adam SAROTA

Yellow cards: Josh KENNEDY 41'; Luke WILKSHIRE 82'
Red cards: 0

Oman
1 Ali-AI HABSI; 4 Juma AL MAASHARI; 5 Mohammed AL BALUSHI; 6 Rashid AL FARSI; 11 Saad AL MUKHAINI; 12 Ahmed MAHAJURI; 13 Abdul AL ALAWI; 15 Ishmail AL AJMI 65'); 16 Abdullahaziz AL MUQBALI; 20 Amad AL HOSNI (Hassan AL HOUSNI 84') 21 Mohammed AL MAKHAINI (Eid AL FARSI 65').

Yellow cards: Nil
Red cards: Nil

Next Match

2014 FIFA World Cup
Asian Qualifiers Match Day 4
Oman vs. Qantas Socceroos
Friday 11 November, 2011



High fives all around as the Socceroos celebrate Brett Holman's opener and put Oman to the sword. Photo: GEOFF JONES

Australia defeated Oman 3-0 in their Group D World Cup qualifying match in front of a 24,000-strong crowd at ANZ Stadium on Tuesday night. The Socceroos had little trouble seeing off an Oman side which lacked bite, and failed to cope with Australia's intermittent attacking thrusts.

Australia looked shaky at the back early on. An enterprising run down the left by Abdulaziz Al Muqbali had Matthew Spiranovic scrambling to close down, and Adam Federici had to rush off his line to gather when another good left-wing run, this time by Ahmed Mubarak, ended with an overhit pass inside to Amad Al Hosni.

The brief initiative was not to last. A deep ball over from the right eluded the bodies in the Omani box and reached Matt McKay on the left; the Rangers man's accurate square ball was prod-

ded in from close range by Brett Holman.

A smart turn and reverse ball from Holman on 17 minutes again reached McKay on the left, but this time his flighted cross was headed away by an Omani defender under some pressure from Luke Wilshire. Oman offered little at the other end; a shot on the turn from Al Hosni, easily held by Federici, was all they managed in the opening half-hour.

The game entered a lull towards the middle of the first half. For all the inventive play of McKay and Holman on the left, the home side were failing to create many chances of note. On 39 minutes a clever ball from McKay through to Holman in the inside-right channel saw the goalscorer remind the fans of some of his early Socceroo performances with a woeful finish. A left-footed volley

from McKay sailed just over the Omani bar, and a lacklustre first half was at an end.

In its initial stages, the second half was little better. Mile Jedinak nodded the ball down for Holman on 56 minutes, but again the AZ Alkmaar forward sliced wide. The industrious Holman was involved again just after the hour, working his way into a good shooting position at the top of the Omani box before again firing past the far post.

In the 65th minute, the Socceroos finally extended their lead. Sloppy Omani defending allowed Holman to pounce on the ball on the right-hand side of the box; a sharp cutback to Wilshire resulted in a shot which was cleared off the line, and Josh Kennedy was on hand to thump the loose ball home.

Two Omani substitutes swiftly arrived,

and one of them, Hamood Al Sadi, forced Rhys Williams into a foul on the edge of the Australian box. The free kick was taken by Mubarak, and Federici showed his quality with a fine diving save to his left.

In a surprisingly aggressive move from Holger Osieck, Robbie Kruse came on for Williams, and Australia adopted a front three. The move had its merits as Kruse gave the Omani left-back Saad Al Mukhaini some moments of concern in the succeeding minutes, without creating any clear opportunities.

Jedinak provided the icing on the cake in the 85th minute. A Wilshire free kick from deep on the left drifted past Spiranovic at the near post and fell at the feet of Jedinak, six yards from goal and unmarked. A simple half-volley put Australia 3-0 up, providing an accurate reflection of the difference between the two sides on the night.



Amad Al Hosni and Carl Valeri. Photo: GEOFF JONES



Man of the Match Brett Holman takes control and dictates play. Photo: GEOFF JONES

Group D Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Australia	3	3	0	0	8	2	6	9
Thailand	3	1	1	1	4	2	2	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	2	1	1	3	-2	2
Oman	3	0	1	2	0	6	-6	1

Other rmatch: Thailand 0-0 Saudi

Player Ratings

Federici: 7. Not much to do but came to the party when it mattered with an important save.

Williams: 7. Aggressive and adventurous, and played an important role in the first goal.

Neill: 6. Made to feel old once or twice in defence.

Spiranovic: 8. Best of the back four, calm on the ball and increasingly dominant in the air.

Zullo: 6. Masking his batteries somewhat at the moment.

Wilshire: 7. A typically robust and industrious game from the Socceroos' all-action right-sider.

Valeri: 6. Unpretentious but mostly effective.

Jedinak: 7. A goal and a strong performance overall in midfield.

McKay: 7. Faded in the second half but was the instigator of many of the Socceroos' better moves in the first.

Holman: 8. Probably Australia's best, tireless and inventive in his movement, if less than impressive in his finishing at times.

Kennedy: 7. Excellent in the first half but a little less forceful than usual in the second.

Substitutes:

Kruse: 7. Caused some problems.


Brosque: N/A. Came on late and had no time to make an impact.

Kilkenny: N/A. Late, time-wasting substitution.



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SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Newcastle Jets FC	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
2 Brisbane Roar FC	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
3 Perth Glory FC	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
4 Wellington Phoenix FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
5 Gold Coast United FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
6 Melbourne Victory FC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
7 Sydney FC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
8 Melbourne Heart FC	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
9 Central Coast Mariners	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
10 Adelaide United FC	1	0	0	1	1	0	-1	0

THIS WEEK	Week 2	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 14 Oct 2011	Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
	Sat 15 Oct 2011	Central Coast Mariners v Gold Coast United	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat 15 Oct 2011	Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar	Sydney Football Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun 16 Oct 2011	Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
	Sun 16 Oct 2011	Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

NEXT WEEK	Week 3	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 21 Oct 2011	Brisbane Roar v Gold Coast United	Suncorp Stadium	7:30pm	8:30pm
	Sat 22 Oct 2011	Adelaide United v Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium	5:00pm	5:30pm
	Sat 22 Oct 2011	Melbourne Victory v Melbourne Heart	Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun 23 Oct 2011	Newcastle Jets v Central Coast Mariners	Ausgrid Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
	Sun 23 Oct 2011	Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix	nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

ROUND 01 RESULTS

Newcastle Jets 3
(Ryan Griffiths 31', 45+1, Byun Sung-Hwan 90+1)
Melbourne Heart 2
(Mate Dugandzic 24', 51')
Crowd: 12,467
Referee: Ryan Shephard

Perth Glory 1 (Mehmet 76')
Adelaide United FC 0
Referee: Jarred Gillett
Crowd: 9,452 @ nib Stadium

GOLD COAST UNITED 1
(Brown 88')
WELLINGTON PHOENIX 1
(Greenacre 17')
At Skilled Park, Gold Coast
Referee: Gerard Parsons
Crowd: 4113

Melbourne Victory 0
Sydney FC 0
Venue: Etihad Stadium
Kick-off: 6.30 pm
Referee: Peter GREEN
Attendance: 40,351

Brisbane Roar 1 (Nichols 72')
Central Coast Mariners 0
Referee: Chris BEATH
Crowd: 13,467 at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

TOP GOAL SCORERS

2 - Ryan Griffiths (Jets),
Mate Dugandzic (Heart)
1 - Byun Sung-Hwan (Jets),
Billy Mehmet (Glory), James Brown (Gold Coast),
Chris Greenacre (Phoenix),
Mitch Nichols (Roar)



Ryan Griffiths (Jets)

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 1

Compiled by Steven Talevski



Ante Covic – A number of fantastic saves highlighted by a penalty save that kept the Victory in the match at crucial points and just edged out fantastic performances by Liam Reddy and Mathew Ryan to make the team.

Manny Muscat – Pulled in a terrific 90 minute shift and set up Wellington's goal, after deciding to turn down playing for Malta in European qualifiers in order to help his club out.

Matt Smith – Brisbane's new captain looked comfortable in the role and had a goal line clearance to help the Roar keep a clean sheet.

Fabio – Gave a penalty away but that shouldn't overlook his great game on Brett Emerton who was kept quiet and by his own admissions labelled his performance as "disappointing".

Marco Rojas – The youngster at his new club wasn't afraid to take on the Sydney defence creating numerous chances for the Victory attack who failed to put the ball in

the back of the net.
Mitch Nichols – Played in the role of former captain Matt McKay to control the Brisbane midfield. His performance was capped off the winning goal.

Thomas Broich – The German continued his form that lit up the A-League last season and combined well with youngster Mitch Nichols.

James Brown – A solid performance for the youngster was capped off with an absolute screamer for the late Gold Coast equaliser.

Ryan Griffiths – A first half double including a well taken free kick helped the Jets to a win after a dramatic few days.

Billy Mehmet – The import was a constant threat for Perth who worked hard and scored a tremendous header.

Mate Dugandzic – Was a constant threat for the Heart and scored his side's two goals in a 3-2 defeat to Newcastle.

Star Man Mitch Nichols Roar



Nichols had a terrific game and if it wasn't for the post he would have had a double. He was able to sit in Matt McKay's old role and combined well with his team-mates especially Thomas Broich. His well taken goal also displays his development in the last few seasons since his debut. With a target of 10 goals this season, Nichols may play a pivotal in Brisbane's title defence and the Olyroo's Olympic qualifying campaign.

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Newcastle Jets



3

Melbourne Heart

HEART



2

Match Details

Newcastle Jets 3
(Ryan Griffiths 31', 45+1, Byun Sung-Hwan 90+1)
Melbourne Heart 2
(Mate Dugandzic 24', 51'
Crowd: 12,467
Referee: Ryan Shephard

Jets Deliver Heartbreak

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets have their Korean import Byun Sung-Hwan to thank after securing a 3-2 victory over an unlucky Melbourne Heart in front of 12,467 fans at Ausgrid Stadium.

The defender scored off a freak deflection in the first minute of stoppage time, with the unlucky Michael Marrone being the man who unwittingly wrong-footed his keeper Nikola Roganovic as the ball nestled in the corner of the net.

It was desperately unlucky for the Heart whose incisive counter-attacking play did enough to seemingly earn what would have been a well deserved draw.

It was the visitors who started the match the brightest and they were unlucky not to be given the opportunity to go ahead in the 13th minute. After some neat play in midfield Brazilian playmaker Fred delivered an inch perfect through ball to fellow new signing David Williams. He beat Newcastle Goalkeeper Ben Kennedy to the ball and appeared to be dragged down by the keeper.

The protests of the Heart players fell on deaf ears as referee Ryan Shephard awarded the home side a goal kick. The visitors did not have to wait too much longer for their deserved breakthrough which came on 24 minutes.

More neat build up play led to for-



The Jets put the past week's turmoil behind them to secure all three points thanks to a winner at the death by Byun Sung-Hwan. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

mer Jets player Jason Hoffman being released on the left edge for the heart. He slid a beautiful square ball into the path of former Victory starlet Mate Dugandzic who tapped in from 6 yards.

Against the run of play the Jets equalised seven minutes later after a

foul on Ali Abbas on the right edge of the penalty area. Ryan Griffiths produced a stunning left footed free kick from 20 yards which bent around the wall before nestling in the right corner of Roganovic's net.

It only became worse for the Heart on the stroke of half-time as sloppy

passing from the back was intercepted by the home side and they duly punished their visitor.

A weak pass from Matt Thompson fell straight to Abbas who chipped a delightful through ball to Griffiths who controlled nicely before slamming his left footed strike past Ro-

ganovic and into the back of the net.

The home fans felt that this would lead to a comfortable victory for the home side after scoring a goal so close to half-time. The Heart did not think so and deservedly levelled in the 51st minute.

This time it was the Jets who were sloppy in playing out from the back and Fred whipped in a ball that caused mass confusion in the Jets defence. The only player that was desperate to get to the ball was Dugandzic and he slotted the ball into the bottom right corner of Kennedy's net.

The game then became a real tactical battle with the Jets beginning to dominate possession but the Heart looking as dangerous as ever on the break. Abbas and Jets captain Jobe Wheelhouse had shots blocked before a frantic final ten minutes from both sides.

The drama began in the 87th minute. Jets replacement James Virgili broke free on the right flank and delivered a searching cross that was brilliantly cleared by fellow substitute Nick Kalmar. The ball fell for the Heart in midfield and was quickly played forward for Alex Terra. The Brazilian substitute could only blast his shot well wide of Ben Kennedy's goal.

By this stage both teams were out on their feet and it seemed that a draw was to be the only outcome until the late drama was provided by Byun.



Ryan Griffiths plants his shot just before half-time to give the home side a 2-1 lead. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



Heart's Mate Dugandzic scores the first goal of 2011/12 and gives the Melbourne side a dream start to the season. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

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HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2011/12 SEASON DRAW

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Week 1

Sat 8 Oct 2011
Sat 8 Oct 2011
Sat 8 Oct 2011
Sun 9 Oct 2011
Sun 9 Oct 2011

Fixture
Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Heart
Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC
Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners
Gold Coast United v Wellington Phoenix
Perth Glory v Adelaide United

Venue	Local	AEDT
Ausgrid Stadium	4:30pm	4:30pm
Etihad Stadium	6:30pm	6:30pm
Suncorp Stadium	7:45pm	8:45pm
Skilled Park	4:00pm	5:00pm
nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

Midweek

Wed 4 Jan 2012
Wed 4 Jan 2012
Wed 4 Jan 2012
Wed 4 Jan 2012
Wed 4 Jan 2012

Fixture
Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC
Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United
Newcastle Jets v Gold Coast United
Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory
Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar

Venue	Local	AEDT
Westpac Stadium	3:00pm	1:00pm
AAMI Park	3:15pm	3:15pm
Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm

Week 2

Fri 14 Oct 2011
Sat 15 Oct 2011
Sat 15 Oct 2011
Sun 16 Oct 2011
Sun 16 Oct 2011

Fixture
Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory
Central Coast Mariners v Gold Coast United
Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar
Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets
Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory

Venue	Local	AEDT
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sydney Football Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 14

Sat 7 Jan 2012
Sat 7 Jan 2012
Sun 8 Jan 2012
Sun 8 Jan 2012
Sun 8 Jan 2012

Fixture
Adelaide United v Brisbane Roar
Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets
Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory
Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners
Gold Coast United v Melbourne Heart

Venue	Local	AEDT
Hindmarsh Stadium	5:00pm	5:30pm
AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
Westpac Stadium	4:00pm	2:00pm
Sydney Football Stadium	4:00pm	4:00pm
Skilled Park	5:30pm	6:30pm

Week 3

Fri 21 Oct 2011
Sat 22 Oct 2011
Sat 22 Oct 2011
Sun 23 Oct 2011
Sun 23 Oct 2011

Fixture
Brisbane Roar v Gold Coast United
Adelaide United v Sydney FC
Melbourne Victory v Melbourne Heart
Newcastle Jets v Central Coast Mariners
Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix

Venue	Local	AEDT
Suncorp Stadium	7:30pm	8:30pm
Hindmarsh Stadium	5:00pm	5:30pm
Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Ausgrid Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

Week 15

Fri 13 Jan 2012
Sat 14 Jan 2012
Sat 14 Jan 2012
Sun 15 Jan 2012
Sun 15 Jan 2012
Wed 18 Jan 2012

Fixture
Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United
Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets
Brisbane Roar v Sydney FC
Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory
Gold Coast United v Wellington Phoenix
Melbourne Heart v Central Coast Mariners

Venue	Local	AEDT
AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
AAMI Park	4:00pm	4:00pm
Skilled Park	5:30pm	6:30pm
AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm

Week 4

Fri 28 Oct 2011
Sat 29 Oct 2011
Sat 29 Oct 2011
Sun 30 Oct 2011
Sun 30 Oct 2011

Fixture
Brisbane Roar v Adelaide United
Central Coast Mariners v Perth Glory
Melbourne Heart v Sydney FC
Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne Victory
Gold Coast United v Newcastle Jets

Venue	Local	AEDT
Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Skilled Park	4:00pm	5:00pm

Week 16

Fri 20 Jan 2012
Sat 21 Jan 2012
Sat 21 Jan 2012
Sun 22 Jan 2012
Sun 22 Jan 2012

Fixture
Newcastle Jets v Wellington Phoenix
Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United
Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar
Sydney FC v Gold Coast United
Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory

Venue	Local	AEDT
Ausgrid Stadium	8:00pm	8:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
TBC7:45pm7:45pm		
Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

Week 5

Fri 4 Nov 2011
Fri 4 Nov 2011
Sat 5 Nov 2011
Sat 5 Nov 2011
Sun 6 Nov 2011

Fixture
Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners
Adelaide United v Melbourne Heart
Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory
Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar
Sydney FC Gold Coast United

Venue	Local	AEDT
Westpac Stadium	7:30pm	5:30pm
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

Regional

Wed 25 Jan 2012

Fixture
Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets

Venue	Local	AEDT
Carrington Park, Bathurst	7:30pm	7:30pm

Week 6

Fri 11 Nov 2011
Sat 12 Nov 2011
Sat 12 Nov 2011
Sat 12 Nov 2011
Sun 13 Nov 2011

Fixture
Adelaide United v Gold Coast United
Melbourne Heart v Newcastle Jets
Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory
Perth Glory v Sydney FC
Brisbane Roar v Wellington Phoenix

Venue	Local	AEDT
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Suncorp Stadium	4:00pm	5:00pm

Week 7

Fri 18 Nov 2011
Sat 19 Nov 2011
Sat 19 Nov 2011
Sat 19 Nov 2011
Sun 20 Nov 2011

Fixture
Gold Coast United v Melbourne Heart
Wellington Phoenix v Adelaide United
Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar
Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners
Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory

Venue	Local	AEDT
Skilled Park	7:00pm	8:00pm
Eden Park, Auckland	5:00pm	3:00pm
Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sydney Football Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Etihad Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 18

Fri 3 Feb 2012
Sat 4 Feb 2012
Sat 4 Feb 2012
Sun 5 Feb 2012
Mon 6 Feb 2012

Fixture
Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix
Central Coast Mariners v Brisbane Roar
Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory
Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets
Perth Glory v Gold Coast United

Venue	Local	AEDT
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm

Week 8

Fri 25 Nov 2011
Sat 26 Nov 2011
Sat 26 Nov 2011
Sun 27 Nov 2011
Sun 27 Nov 2011

Fixture
Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets
Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Heart
Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory
Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC
Melbourne Victory v Gold Coast United

Venue	Local	AEDT
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 9

Fri 2 Dec 2011
Sat 3 Dec 2011
Sat 3 Dec 2011
Sun 4 Dec 2011
Sun 4 Dec 2011

Fixture
Adelaide United v Central Coast Mariners
Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Victory
Perth Glory v Gold Coast United
Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix
Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar

Venue	Local	AEDT
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Ausgrid Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Latrobe Cplx, Morwell	3:00pm	3:00pm
Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

Regional

Wed 7 Dec 2011

Fixture
Sydney FC v Perth Glory

Venue	Local	AEDT
Campbelltown Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm

Week 10

Fri 9 Dec 2011
Sat 10 Dec 2011
Sat 10 Dec 2011
Sat 10 Dec 2011
Sun 11 Dec 2011

Fixture
Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart
Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory
Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets
Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United
Gold Coast United v Sydney FC

Venue	Local	AEDT
Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
Westpac Stadium	5:00pm	3:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Skilled Park	4:00pm	5:00pm

Regional

Wed 14 Dec 2011

Fixture
Wellington Phoenix v Brisbane Roar

Venue	Local	AEDT
Forsyth Barr Strm, Dunedin	7:30pm	5:30pm

Week 11

Fri 16 Dec 2011
Sat 17 Dec 2011
Sat 17 Dec 2011
Sat 17 Dec 2011
Sun 18 Dec 2011

Fixture
Adelaide United v Gold Coast United
Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC
Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners
Perth Glory v Melbourne Heart
Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix

Venue	Local	AEDT
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 12

Thur 22 Dec 2011
Fri 23 Dec 2011
Fri 23 Dec 2011
Fri 23 Dec 2011
Mon 26 Dec 2011

Fixture
Sydney FC v Adelaide United
Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets
Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory
Perth Glory v Central Coast Mariners
Gold Coast United v Brisbane Roar

Venue	Local	AEDT
Sydney Football Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
Westpac Stadium	7:30pm	5:30pm
AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Skilled Park	6:30pm	7:30pm

Week 13

Thur 29 Dec 2011
Fri 30 Dec 2011
Sat 31 Dec 2011
Sat 31 Dec 2011
Sat 31 Dec 2011

Fixture
Sydney FC v Melbourne Heart
Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix
Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory
Central Coast Mariners v Gold Coast United
Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory

Venue	Local	AEDT
Sydney Football Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Ausgrid Stadium	4:00pm	4:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	6:15pm	6:15pm
Suncorp Stadium	7:30pm	8:30pm

Week 21

Fri 24 Feb 2012
Sat 25 Feb 2012
Sat 25 Feb 2012
Sat 25 Feb 2012
Sun 26 Feb 2012

Fixture
Newcastle Jets v Adelaide United
Sydney FC v Wellington Phoenix
Gold Coast United v Melbourne Victory
Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar
Melbourne Heart v Central Coast Mariners

Venue	Local	AEDT
Ausgrid Stadium	8:00pm	8:00pm
Sydney Football Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Skilled Park	6:45pm	7:45pm
nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 22

Fri 2 Mar 2012
Sat 3 Mar 2012
Sat 3 Mar 2012
Sun 4 Mar 2012
Sun 4 Mar 2012

Fixture
Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart
Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets
Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC
Wellington Phoenix v Gold Coast United
Adelaide United v Perth Glory

Venue	Local	AEDT
Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm

Week 23

Fri 9 Mar 2012
Sat 10 Mar 2012
Sat 10 Mar 2012
Sun 11 Mar 2012
Sun 11 Mar 2012

Fixture
Newcastle Jets v Gold Coast United
Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix
Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory
Brisbane Roar v Adelaide United
Perth Glory v Central Coast Mariners

Venue	Local	AEDT
Ausgrid Stadium	8:00pm	8:00pm
AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sydney Football Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Suncorp Stadium	4:00pm	5:00pm
nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

Week 24

Fri 16 Mar 2012
Sat 17 Mar 2012
Sat 17 Mar 2012
Sun 18 Mar 2012
Sun 18 Mar 2012

Fixture
Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix
Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United
Melbourne Heart v Sydney FC
Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar
Gold Coast United v Perth Glory

Venue	Local	AEDT
AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
Ausgrid Stadium	4:00pm	4:00pm
Skilled Park	5:30pm	6:30pm

Week 25

Fri 23 Mar 2012
Sat 24 Mar 2012
Sun 25 Mar 2012
Sun 25 Mar 2012
Sun 25 Mar 2012

Fixture
Adelaide United v Melbourne Heart
Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory
Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners
Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets
Gold Coast United v Brisbane Roar

Venue	Local	AEDT
Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
nib Stadium	7:30pm	9:30pm
Westpac Stadium	4:00pm	2:00pm
Sydney Football Stadium	4:00pm	4:00pm
Skilled Park	5:30pm	6:30pm

Finals: Week 1 (30 March-1 April), Week 2 (6-8 April), Week 3 (13-15 April), Week 4 Grand Final (Sun 22 April 2012)

Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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Melbourne Victory

0

Sydney FC

0

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 0 Sydney FC 0
Date: 8 October 2011
Venue: Etihad Stadium
Referee: Peter GREEN
Assistant Referees: Rod ALLEN and Hakan ANAZ
Fourth Official: Strebre DELOVSKI
Attendance: 40,351

Melbourne Victory

21 Ante COVIC; 2 Matthew FOSCHINI; 3 FABIO; 8 Grant BREBNER; 10 Archie THOMPSON (19 Isaka CERNAK 68'); 11 Marco ROJAS; 12 Rodrigo VARGAS; 14 Billy CELESKI (6 Leigh BROXHAM 55'); 18 Danny ALLSOPP (9 Jean Carlos SOLORZANO 80'); 22 Harry KEWELL; 23 Adrian LEIJER

Unused subs: 20 Lawrence THOMAS

Yellow Cards: Matthew FOSCHINI 29'; FABIO 33'; Adrian LEIJER 75'.
Red cards: Nil

Sydney FC

1 Liam REDDY; 3 Jamie COYNE (2 Sebastian RYALL 85'); 4 Pascal BOSS-CHAART; 5 Michael BEAUCHAMP; 7 Brett EMERTON (6 Hiro MORIYASU 83'); 10 Nick CARLE (9 Bruno CAZARINE 90'); 12 Shannon COLE; 15 Terry MCFLYNN; 17 Terry ANTONIS; 19 Mark BRIDGE; 21 Scott JAMIESON

Unused substitutes: 20 Ivan NECEVSKI

Yellow cards: 21 Scott JAMIESON 45+1'; Michael BEAUCHAMP 59'; Liam REDDY 75'; 10 Nick CARLE 90+1'
Red card: 19 Mark BRIDGE 75'.

Keepers shine in blockbuster

By Roy Hay

The long awaited clash between Victory and Sydney with the Kewell and Emerton show as the main event kicked off at Etihad Stadium on Saturday night.

There were no goals but plenty of incident and controversy with a penalty saved, a player sent off and numerous close things at both ends of the ground.

Both Kewell and Emerton showed touches of the undoubted class advantage they have, but it is early days in terms of their contribution on the park.

But they did help draw 40,351 to see their debuts.

Nevertheless the players of the match were the two goalkeepers, Ante Covic for Vicotry and Liam Reddy for the Sydneysiders.

Victory lined up with Covic in goal, Fabio, Foschini, Vargas and Leijer at the back, Brebner, Celeski and Rojas in the middle and Kewell, Thompson and Allsopp in attack.

After an early flurry in which Victory created two reasonable openings, it was Sydney which took control of the first half, dominating possession and testing Victory's new keeper with a succession of shots.

Mark Bridge had one effort which stung Covic's hands and Scott Jamieson shaved the far post with a cross shot.

Victory looked for a free kick when three defenders converged on Thompson but the referee, Peter Green, would have none of it.

Rojas picked up a poor clearance by Liam Reddy and ran in on goal but his effort just slid wide of the near post.



Harry Kewell goes close to breaking the deadlock with a dangerous header.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Foschini was booked for a challenge on Terry Antonis, and when a Jamieson free kick was deflected to him it seemed that Bridge must score but Covic blocked the effort with his feet.

At the other end a testing Kewell cross resulted in Beauchamp heading over his own cross bar to safety. Fabio had been excellent at full back but when he was caught on the wrong side of Bridge he pushed the striker over and the referee gave the clear penalty kick.

Emerton struck the ball along the ground but Covic got down brilliantly to push it clear.

Some said the Socceroo put the ball too close to him, but the keeper deserves all the credit for the speed of his reaction.

That should have lifted Victory but Bridge almost made amends with another fierce shot which Covic turned round the post.

A long ball out of defence was knocked down by Allsopp but Thompson put his shot wide.

Then on the stroke of half-time Rojas made another excellent run finishing with a fine cross which Harry Kewell should have buried, but his header was saved by Reddy at the expense of a fruitless corner.

In 55 minutes Billy Celeski was replaced by Leigh Broxham after Celeski came off worst in a clash in midfield.

A minute later Kewell wormed his way past two defenders but once again Reddy denied him.

Michael Beauchamp was lucky to

escape with a yellow card after a late and heavy challenge on Archie Thompson that forced the striker from the field a few minutes later. Isaka Cernak replaced him.

The game boiled over after another incident in the 75 minute when Kewell was fouled. As he lined up the shot, mayhem broke out in the defensive all and Mark Bridge was sent off by the referee for striking a Victory player. Adrian Leijer and keeper Reddy were booked for retaliation in the aftermath of the initial skirmish.

Down to ten men, Sydney still threatened though they appeared more concerned to hold what they had as the legs got tired at the end.

A string of substitutions disrupted the last few minutes and Victory could not engineer a goal.

The match was summed up by another brilliant piece of skill by Victory substitute Jean Carlos Solorzano, on for Danny Allsopp, who seemed bound to score until Reddy pulled off another miraculous save on the line.

Both coaches were delighted with their team's efforts and both said it had been a high quality, very testing game for both sides.

Brett Emerton was complimentary about the standard he found in his first competitive match in the A-league and said he enjoyed the 'European' atmosphere in the stadium.

Victory keeper Covic only arrived on Monday and expressed himself as pleased with his first-up performance.

Neither he nor Emerton were prepared to admit that they learned anything from any practice penalty kicks at Socceroo training, but this was the occasion when the keepers came out on top.



Sydney FC's Brett Emerton scoffs the chance to score from the spot and Victory keeper Ante Covic is the hero of the hour for his new side.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

Brisbane Roar



1

CC Mariners



0

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 1 (Mitch NICHOLS 72')
Central Coast Mariners 0
Saturday, 8 October 2011
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Local kick-off: 7.45pm
Referee: Chris Beath
Crowd: 13,467

Brisbane Roar line-up: 1. Michael THEOKLITOS (gk), 2. Matthew SMITH (c), 3. Shane STEFANUTTO, 4. Matthew JURMAN, 5. Ivan FRANJIC, 6. Erik PAAR-TALLU, 7. Besart BERISHA (8. Massimo MURDOCCA 66'), 11. Issey NAKAJIMA-FARRAN (19. Kofi DANNING 80'), 17. Mitchell NICHOLS, 21. James MEYER, 22. Thomas BROICH
Substitutes Not Used: 16. Mohamed ADNAN, 20. Andrew REDMAYNE (gk)
Yellow Cards: Shane STEFANUTTO 57'
Red Cards: Nil

Central Coast Mariners line-up: 1. Mat-thew RYAN (gk), 3. Joshua ROSE, 4. Pedj BOJIC, 5. Bradley PORTER, 6. Patricius ZWAANSWIJK (c), 8. Rostyn GRIFFITHS (2. Daniel McBREEN 86'), 10. Adriano PELLEGRINO, 11. Oliver BOZANIC, 14. Michael MCGLINCHEY (12. Troy HEAR-FIELD 66'), 17. Michael BAIRD (23. Adam KWASNIK 58'), 19. Matthew SIMON
Substitutes Not Used: 20. Justin PASFIELD (gk)
Yellow Cards: Pedj BOJIC 7', Michael BAIRD 23', Rostyn GRIFFITHS 50', Bradley PORTER 81'
Red Cards: Nil

By Jarrod Ellis

Seven months after recording their 28th match unbeaten Brisbane Roar stretched their record run to 29, beginning the 2011/12 A-League season with a 1-0 win over defeated Grand Finalists, the Central Coast Mariners.

In an entertaining match the home team dominated possession for extended periods, but looked vulnerable at the back when faced with the Mariners' swift counter attacks. Central Coast came close to capitalizing on Brisbane's insistence on a high defensive line several times, only some last ditch efforts from the Brisbane defence and intelligent goalkeeping from Michael Theoklitos ensuring that the Mariners were kept scoreless.

Brisbane's first effort on goal didn't arrive until the 20th minute, new signing Besart Berisha curling a free kick high and wide of Matthew Ryan's goal after Rostyn Griffiths brought down one of the Roar's other newcomers, Issey Nakajima-Farran, on the edge of the box.

Brisbane then gave a glimpse of the form they showed last season in the 24th minute when a quick interchange of passes just outside the area led to James Meyer sending a low cross into the area, Nakajima-Farran however was unable to get a good touch on the ball and it flashed out for a goal-kick.

The A-League Champions were beginning to hit their straps and only a minute later they were unlucky to not take the lead. Nakajima-Farran was heavily involved once again, his superb through ball unleashed Mitch Nichols into the area, the young midfielder skipping past a charging Matt Ryan but with



Mitch Nichols strikes a deserved winner as Roar win the grand final replay and open the season the same way it left the last. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

the angle tightening his shot found the post instead of the back of the net.

Nichols almost made up for his disappointment only two minutes later. Shane Stefanutto sent in a tantalizing low cross from the left of the area that ran perfectly to Nichols, but his shot was too close to Ryan and the young keeper did well to hang onto the ball.

After losing several key players in the off-season Brisbane recruited heavily and new signing Issey Nakajima-Farran was looking the business in the

first half, going on a mazy run into the Mariners penalty area in the 30th minute before being dispossessed.

Central Coast weren't content to just roll over however and Michael Theoklitos was called into action a number of times before the half, denying Matt Simon and having to remain vigilant for over the top through balls as the visitors sought to hit Brisbane on the counter.

When play restarted it seemed as though nothing had changed, Bris-

bane retaining possession and almost capitalizing on some good passing and movement up front, Besart Berisha unable to convert a half chance at the near post.

It was the Mariner's though that came the closest to taking the lead. A quick attacking surge down the right concluded with a diving header from Matt Simon that had Theoklitos completely beaten, only a desperate goal line clearance from Brisbane captain Matt Smith kept the score level.

Central Coast keeper Ryan was the bane of the Brisbane team in last season's Grand Final and he was at it again on Saturday night. The nineteen year-old denied James Meyer with another outstanding save after a Thomas Broich cross from the left had found Meyer lurking on the right of the penalty area.

The home crowd's gasps of disbelief changed to sighs of relief five minutes later when an Oliver Bozanic shot was blocked on the left side of the six-yard box by Matt Jurman.

Despite their frustrations Brisbane stuck to their game plan and the breakthrough finally arrived in the 72nd minute, Mitch Nichols capping an impressive performance with a goal. After collecting the ball on the edge of the area the midfielder skipped inside a sliding Patricius Zwaanswijk before dispatching a clinical finish that not even Matt Ryan could stop.

A goal down and with time running out Mariners' manager Graham Arnold rolled the dice in the 86th minute, introducing Danny McBreen for Rostyn Griffiths in the hopes an extra striker would find an equalizer for the visitors.

However it proved to have no effect on the final result, Brisbane held on for the win and provided proof that there's life after Matt McKay after all.

After the match Arnold lauded both sides' efforts, "I thought we played well in patches however on occasion we gave the ball away a bit cheaply," Arnold said.

"This is something we need to keep working on, but to their credit, tonight we played a very good Brisbane Roar team.

"I've said it all off-season and I'll say it again, whoever can consistently beat Brisbane Roar over the course of the season will go very close to winning the A-League.



Thomas Broich stands tall and clears the defensive lines for the Roar. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Michael Baird goes to ground after Matthew Jurman gets there just in the nick of time to block his shot. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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Gold Coast United

1

Wellington Phoenix

1

Match Details

GOLD COAST UNITED 1 (Brown 88')
WELLINGTON PHOENIX 1 (Greenacre 17')
 HT: 0-1
 Referee: Gerard Parsons
 Crowd: 4113
 At Skilled Park, Gold Coast

Gold Coast United:
 1.Glen MOSS [gk], 3.Michael THWAITE (c), 6.Paul BEEKMANS (21.Daniel SEVERINO 81'), 8.ROBSON, 12.Dylan MACALLISTER (10.Tahj MINNIECON 74'), 13.Ante ROZIC, 14.Ben HAL-LORAN, 15.Adama TRAORE, 18.James BROWN, 22.Peter JUNGSLAGER, 23.Dylan MCGOWAN (9.Joel PORTER 58').
 Unused subs: 20.Jerrad TYSON [gk].
 Yellow cards: None.
 Red cards: None.

Wellington Phoenix:
 1.Mark PASTON [gk], 2.Manny MUSCAT, 3.Tony LOCHHEAD, 6.Tim BROWN, 7.Leo BERTOS, 8.Paul IFILL (11.DANIEL 53'), 9.Chris GREENACRE, 17.Vince LIA (12.Nicky WARD 50'), 18.Ben SIGMUND, 21.Dani SANCHEZ (19.Jimmy DOWNEY 69'), 22.Andrew DURANTE.
 Unused Subs: 20.Tony WARNER [gk].
 Yellow cards: Durante 84', Ward 90+4'.
 Red cards: None.

Golden Brown saves United

By Neil Favager

LOCAL youngster James Brown thundered a dramatic late equaliser for Gold Coast United to secure a 1-1 draw against Wellington Phoenix in the season opener at Skilled Park.

It was the least Miron Bleiberg's men deserved after they peppered the Phoenix goal in the second half in an effort to cancel out Chris Greenacre's 17th minute strike for the visitors.

A glance at the history books suggest it should come as no surprise that Brown was the instigator of the fight back - he twice scored against the same opponent last season.

But this one will rate among his best, a blistering 88th drive from all of 25 metres that whistled past Wellington's outstanding keeper Mark Paston who had defied United time and time again throughout the match.

It took Gold Coast time to get going despite two disallowed Dylan Macallister goals in the first 45 minutes and Wellington took advantage when Greenacre thumped home Manny Muscat's cross to Dylangive the visitors an early lead.

Just before the break Adama Traore's speedy run found Paul Beekmans on the edge of the box and the Dutchman forced Paston into a flying save with his 20-

metre drive. Then, on the stroke of half time a well-crafted move released Traore in on goal, but the Ivorian defender's effort was smothered well by Paston.

Within seconds of the restart United almost levelled through Ben Halloran's curling drive, then Paston was called into action again soon afterwards to push away Jungchlager's drive.

More chances followed and Paul Beekmans thought he'd equalised for Gold Coast when he connected firmly with Minniecon's corner, only to be left frustrated as his header first hit a Phoenix defender before cannoning off the crossbar.

Just as Gold Coast thought they would be left without any fruit for their labours, up popped Brown to level for Miron Bleiberg's men, much to his relief.

"It was a quality goal but I would be taken any type of goal that late in the game," Bleiberg said.

"It was the right goal, by the right player at the right time.

"Overall I was happy with the way we played and we have a good base to build on from here. The ingredients are there. We have a lot of new players and we did make a few mistakes today, but that should not overshadow the many good things we did.

"I thought their goalkeeper had an outstanding game and saved them numerous times, so all credit to him."



Gold Coast United players rejoice after James Brown hit a sweet strike to salvage a valuable opening day point. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Gold Coast's Ben Halloran and Phoenix's Manny Muscat tussle for supremacy. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



United's Dylan MacAllister and Peter Jungschlager surround Dani Sanchez. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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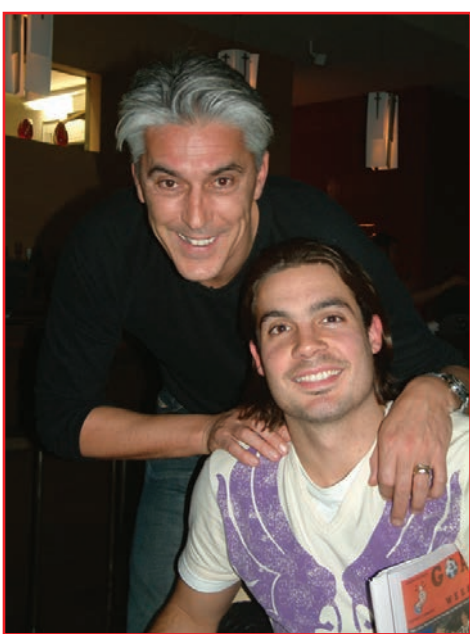
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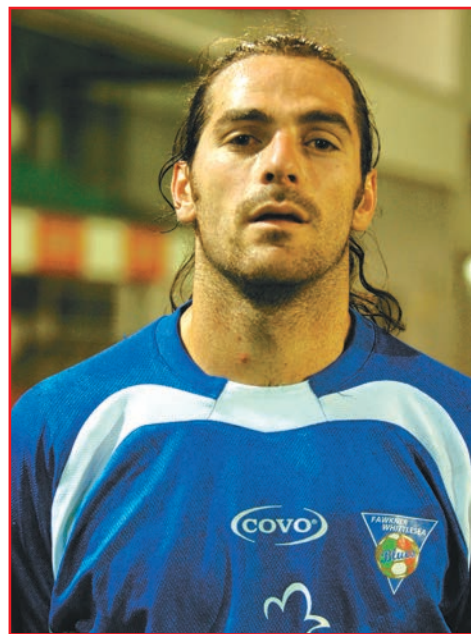
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James Holland (AZ Alkmaar)



Sasa Ogrenovski (Seongnam)



Adrian Zahra (Melbourne Heart)



Cameron Watson (Adelaide United)



Jack Hingert (Brisbane Roar)



Nick Kalmar (Melbourne Heart)



Mitch Langerak (Borussia Dortmund)

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Perth Glory



1

Adelaide United



0

Match Details

Perth Glory 1 (Mehmet 76')
Adelaide United FC 0
Referee: Jarred Gillett
Crowd: 9,452 @ nib Stadium

Adelaide United line-up: 1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (Gk), 4.Jon McKAIN (c), 5.Daniel MULLEN (14.Cameron WATSON 25'), 6.CASSIO, 7.Zenon CARAVELLA, 8.Evgeniy LEVCHENKO, 9.Sergio VAN DIJK, 11.Bruce DJITE, 16.Spase DILEVSKI (17.Iain RAMSAY 80'), 22.Milan SUSAK (21.Francisco USUCAR 81'), 23.Andy SLORY

Substitutes not used: 20.Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)
Yellow Cards: Levchenko 37'
Red Cards: Nil

Perth Glory line-up: 1.Danny VUKOVIC, 2.Josh MITCHELL, 3.Bas Van Den BRINK, 4.Billy MEHMET, 7.Jacob BURNS (c), 9.Shane SMELTZ, 10.Liam MILLER, 12.Scott NEVILLE (6.Chris COYNE 82'), 13.Travis DODD (14.Steven McGARRY 65'), 17.Todd HOWARTH, 27.ANDREZINHO (15. Tommy AMPHLETT 68')

Substitutes not used: 20.Neil YOUNG (gk)
Yellow Cards: Burns 49', Mehmet 58', Vukovic 86'
Red Cards: Nil

Hero Billy heads for Glory

By Jacon Kagi

Billy Mehmet has made the perfect A-League debut as his late goal lifted Perth Glory to a 1-0 victory against Adelaide United at nib Stadium.

The Irish striker gave Perth a reward for an impressive performance with his 77th minute winner, which sent the 9452 fans home much happier than at most points last season.

Victory broke a hoodoo for the Glory, which had never won an A-League opening round fixture, and came on the back of a lacklustre United performance.

"We were very lucky at half-time to still be 0-0, Perth were much better than us ... I think they deserved the win," Adelaide coach Rini Coolen said.

And the defeat was soured for the visitors by an apparent hamstring injury to Daniel Mullen, which saw him stretchered off after just 25 minutes, while Dario Vidosic failed to take his place in Adelaide's side after being ruled out in the lead-up to the game.

Perth's performance was a vast improvement on its efforts in most of its dreadful campaign last season, where it won just two of 25 games, and much of that came from strong games from new recruits Mehmet, Liam Miller, Shane Smeltz and Andrezinho.

The only downside for the hosts was wasteful finishing, which saw them miss six good chances in

the first half and several after the break.

Former Adelaide captain Travis Dodd shot wide from an excellent position after 10 minutes and Mehmet should have done better after Andrezinho did brilliantly to set him up shortly after.

And the Brazilian debutant produced some more magic in the 18th minute, but his cross barely missed the outstretched boot of Smeltz with the goal open.

The Reds' inability to maintain possession and territory in the first half starved attackers Bruce Djite and Sergio van Dijk of opportunities. That changed after the break as Djite found himself in space in the box, but his shot was charged down by Todd Howarth after a frantic period of play.

And Adelaide was made to pay for its disappointing effort when substitute Tommy Amphlett ran down the wing and crossed to Mehmet for the crucial goal.

Mehmet had an excellent chance to secure a brace shortly after but couldn't convert, while Smeltz also blew a great opportunity in the final minutes, but it mattered little as the Glory held on.

Perth coach Ian Ferguson said he was pleased with the way his side created chances.

"We could easily have scored six or seven goals today," he said.

"The game could have been finished a long time ago ... but it was important we got the three points, especially at home."



New recruit Billy Mehmet scores on debut and gives Glory its first winning start to the season since the A-league began. Photo: PGFC



Glory players salute the strong crowd after the final whistle blows. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN



Players surround the referee after Adelaide United's Bruce Djite goes to ground after an over the top tackle. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN

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Line Ups

- 1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (Gk)
 - 2.Osama MALIK
 - 4.Jon Mckain (C)
 - 5.Daniel MULLEN
 - 6.CASSIO
 - 7.Zenon CARAVELLA
 - 8.Evgeniy LEVCHENKO
 - 9.Sergio VAN DIJK
 - 10.Dario VIDOSIC
 - 11.Bruce DJITE
 - 12.Antony GOLEC
 - 13.Ricardo DA SILVA
 - 14.Cameron WATSON
 - 16.Spase DILEVSKI
 - 17.Iain RAMSAY
 - 20.Mark BIRIGHITTI (Gk)
 - 21.Francisco USUCAR
 - 22.Milan SUSAK
 - 23.Andy SLORY
- *four to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Nigel BOOGAARD
(ankle – 4 weeks)

Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory

Fri 14 Oct Hindmarsh Stdm 8:00pm

Fresh off a much anticipated and entertaining opening round clash with Sydney FC the Kewell circus rolls into Adelaide to play in front of another packed house.

A scoreless draw mightn't have been what the 40,000 people who attended Etihad last week-end were hoping for, but despite the lack of goals the match was an absolute belter. The first 10 minutes had to be seen to be believed, such was the quality that both sides displayed. During the ensuing 80 minutes there would be a penalty saved, a player sent off, an all in scuffle, numerous clear cut chances but still no goal. Adelaide travelled to Perth on Sunday afternoon with high hopes after a promising off season, but suffered a serious reality check at the hands of a pumped up Glory outfit. The Reds were lucky to be still in the contest at the half with Perth spurning a handful of glorious chances, but eventually the weight of possession told and new signing Billy Mehmet was on hand to steer Perth to a



TV: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports
Odds: AUFC 2.60 Draw 3.30 MVFC 2.75

well deserved win. The Victory received a welcome surprise when Carlos Hernandez attended training on Tuesday. The Costa Rican was expected to miss this weekend's match because of his countries international against Cuba. But the cancellation of the match is great news for the Victory who now expects Hernandez to line up this Friday. Archie Thompson will be monitored during the week after he had to have six stitches in his shin after a heavy

clash with Michael Beauchamp. For the home side, key signing Dario Vidosic will probably start after falling ill before last week-end's clash. While defender Daniel Mullen will miss with a hamstring injury. The last time these two sides met it was the Reds who came away with the spoils, 2-1, at the Adelaide Oval. In fact prior to Adelaide's 4-1 demolition of Melbourne at AAMI Park last year the Victory had won the previous 10 clashes between

these two sides including a 1-0 result in the 08/09 Grand Final. After watching Adelaide against Perth last weekend you'd be hard pressed to pick them here, but I get the feeling they'll be up for this match. If Vidosic can slot straight in and have the impact that most pundits expect he will this season then the Reds won't leave empty handed.

Prediction:
Adelaide 2-2 Victory



Line Ups

2. Matthew Foschini
 3. Fabio
 4. Petar Franjic
 6. Leigh Broxham
 7. Matthew Kemp
 8. Grant Brebner
 9. Jean Carlos Solorzano
 10. Archie Thompson
 11. Marco Rojas
 12. Rodrigo Vargas
 13. Diogo Ferreira
 14. Billy Celeski
 15. Tom Pondeljak
 17. Jimmy Jeggo
 18. Danny Allsopp
 19. Isaka Cernak
 20. Lawrence Thomas (GK)
 21. Ante Covic (GK)
 22. Harry Kewell
 23. Adrian Leijer (c)
- *Five to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Tando Velaphi (stress fracture)
Carlos Hernandez
(international duty)



Line Ups

1. Mathew RYAN
 2. Daniel MCBREEN
 3. Joshua ROSE
 4. Pedj BOJIC
 5. Brad PORTER
 6. Patrick ZWAANSWIJK (c)
 8. Rostyn GRIFFITHS
 9. Bernie IBINI
 10. Adriano PELLEGRINO
 11. Oliver BOZANIC
 12. Troy HEARFIELD
 14. Michael MCGLINCHY
 15. Brad MCDONALD
 16. Trent SAINSBURY
 17. Michael BAIRD
 19. Matthew SIMON
 20. Justin PASFIELD
 21. Sam GALLAGHER
 23. Adam KWASNIK
- *Four to be omitted*

Unavailable:
7. John HUTCHINSON (On Loan)
13. Stuart MUSIALIK (Adductor – 1 week)
18. Alex WILKINSON (Forearm – 1 week)

CC Mariners v Gold Coast United

Sat 15 Oct Bluetongue Stdm 5:30pm

By Adrian Deans

Last year, despite some issues off the pitch with attendances, ground security and the FFA's leadership, we were at least able to point to the standard of football being played as evidence that Australian football was getting something right. On the pitch, Season 6 was by miles the A-League's best in terms of football quality, but on the evidence of Round 1, every team has gone to a new level for Season 7.

Especially Brisbane. All the hype was (understandably) for Sydney v Melbourne but the Grand Final replay up in Brisbane was the match of the round. Despite losing players of the calibre of Barbarouses, Solorzano and Matt McKay, Brisbane haven't missed a beat. They are playing sumptuous, flowing football and are likely to embarrass a few sides this year.

But not the Mariners. The Central Coast are also looking slick and very well organised. The combinations which worked so effectively last year were on show again – Rose and Bozanic down the left; Bojic and McGlinchey down the right; Zwaanswijk commanding at the back, Matt Simon marauding up front and young Mat Ryan outstanding between the sticks. There were two parts of the puzzle missing. Alex Wilkinson's broken arm meant a key part of last year's defensive combination was absent, but most importantly, the creativity up the park was greatly depleted by the transfer of Patricio Perez and the injury to Mustafa Amini. That's no criticism of Adriano Pellegrino (I've always been a fan, in fact) but he doesn't have the vision, passing range and sheer unpredictability of Perez or Amini, which limited the Mariners' options in attack.

The man of the match was Mitch Nicholls, who scored the only goal after a

Mariners and Gold Coast will hope to open their accounts for the new season. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



TV: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports Radio: LIVE on Coast FM (96.3FM)
Odds: Mariners 1.81 Draw 3.60 Gold Coast 4.75

misjudged tackle by Zwaanswijk. I said in my season preview that Zwaanswijk had been the Mariners' best player in Season 6. He was strong again on Saturday night, but his great strength is his ability to spot danger and snuff it out before it happens, which requires the perfect blend of experience, speed and fast reflexes. If he had kept his feet, rather than lunge for the intercept, he might have prevented Nicholls' goal, but anything less than a win would have been hard on Brisbane. The Mariners played as well as Brisbane allowed them to in a high quality game which Brisbane deserved to win.

No disrespect to the Gold Coast, but Round 2 should be easier. The Mariners will be favourites at home against a team that struggled to get a draw with Wellington. Having said that, Miron Bleiberg's team have some teeth and in young

James Brown they have a potential superstar. Plenty of fans will have admired his late equaliser from 25 metres, but his all-round performance was outstanding. It will probably be up to Rostyn Griffiths to contain his influence and incisive passes in the final third.

Ben Halloran was also impressive against Wellington and will get more dangerous as his confidence increases with game time. He tends to switch from side to side so both Rose and Bojic will have to keep an eye out.

Perhaps inspired by the performance last year of Patrick Zwaanswijk, the Gold Coast have brought in their own Dutch veterans in Peter Jungschlager and Paul Beekmans – both of whom looked like good players against Wellington and will be better for the run.

Playing at home though, we should see a

return to the Mariners' dominant attacking style that was largely stifled by Brisbane. Last year, the wide combinations succeeded in getting in behind the defence again and again and the goals flowed. Matt Simon and Daniel McBreen prospered last year – feasting upon the crosses of Bozanic, Rose and McGlinchey. Normal service should be resumed on Saturday night.

I'm also hoping to see a more influential game from Pellegrino. He needs to find his wide men square rather than trying to dink the ball into space for the strikers to chase. The Mariners had success last year from passing to feet – even in the final third – and that's the system he needs to fit into in order to replicate the impact of Perez and Amini.

Prediction:
Mariners 3-0 GCUFC



Line Ups

- 1.Glen Moss [Gk]
 - 2.Josh Brillante
 - 3.Michael Thwaite (C)
 - 5.Kristian Rees
 - 6.Paul Beekmans
 - 7.Golgol Mebrahtu
 - 8.Robson
 - 9.Joel Porter
 - 12.Dylan Macallister
 - 13.Ante Rozic
 - 14.Ben Halloran
 - 15.Adama Traore
 - 16.Maceo Rigters
 - 18.James Brown
 - 20.Jerrad Tyson [Gk]
 - 21.Daniel Severino
 - 22.Peter Jungschlager
 - 23.Dylan McGowan.
- *three to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Chris BROADFOOT (ankle injury – 6 weeks)

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Line Ups

1. Liam Reddy
 2. Sebastian Ryall
 3. Jamie Coyne
 4. Pascal Bosschaert
 5. Michael Beauchamp
 7. Brett Emerton
 9. Bruno Cazarine
 10. Nick Carle
 11. Dimi Petratos
 12. Shannon Cole
 15. Terry McFlynn (capt)
 17. Terry Antonis
 19. Mark Bridge
 20. Ivan Necevski
 21. Scott Jamieson
 - 23 Rhyan Grant
- *One to be omitted*

Unavailable: Karol Kisel (calf) 1 week
Juho Makela (quad) 2 weeks

Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar

Sat 15 Oct SFS 7:45pm

The Roar meets Sydney this weekend hoping to increase their unbeaten streak to 30.

If anyone was under the illusion that the Roar would slide down the table this season, they were quickly proved wrong last Saturday night.

The departure of Barbarouses, McKay and Solorzano had many pundits wondering whether or not the Roar could become the first team in A-League history to defend their title, but from what we witnessed Saturday night this side will be the team to beat again this season.

Mitch Nichols was the star for the Roar and it was his goal that eventually decided the contest. Sydney were gallant in their scoreless draw with Melbourne, but will be left rueing Brett Emertons first half penalty miss, as well as Mark Bridge's errant elbow which left them defending grimly for the final 15 minutes. The star for Sydney was much maligned goalkeeper Liam Reddy who twice denied Allsopp, fended away Kewell's header and bravely saved Solorzano's last ditch effort at a winner. Emerton will be a key player for the Sky Blues once again, and his battle with former Socceroo



Can Sydney stop the the Roar juggernaut in the match of the round? Photo: GEOFF JONES

TV: LIVE on FoxSports 1
Odds: Sydney FC 2.60 Draw 3.30 Roar 2.70

Shane Stefanutto on Brisbane's left will be one of the key individual tussles on the night. With Mark Bridge suspended, Bruno Cazarine is likely to resume his duties up front, with Nick Carle and possibly young Terry Antonis providing the support.

Sydney's backline did better than expected against the Victory stars, and the back five is likely to remain unchanged. With the inventiveness and swift movement of the Brisbane forward line to deal with, they will certainly have their work

cut out on Saturday evening; new signing Issay Nakajima-Farran in particular could cause them plenty of problems.

Two Brisbane players will be facing the club they left at the end of last season. Central defender Matthew Jurman never quite settled in the Sydney FC first team and will be keen to prove a point to his former employers, while winger Kofi Danning, something of a disappointment at the recent Under 20 World Cup, will probably have the chance to make an impact, if only

as a substitute.

Sydney proved to be a hand-ful for the Roar last season, with two victories by the slenderest of margins and another hard fought draw. Vitezslav Lavicka's men will be keen to demonstrate their premiership credentials in front of a big home crowd, but I can't see them getting past the Roar who should extend their unbeaten streak to 30.

With Mike Salter

**Prediction
Sydney 0-2 Roar**



Line Ups

1. Michael Theoklitos (Gk)
 2. Matt Smith (C)
 3. Shane Stefanutto
 4. Matt Jurman
 5. Ivan Franjic
 6. Erik Paaratlu
 7. Besart Berisha
 8. Massimo Murdocca
 9. Kofi Danning
 10. Henrique
 11. Issey Nakajima-Farran
 16. Mohamed Adnan
 17. Mitch Nichols
 18. Luke Brattan
 19. Jack Hingert
 20. Andrew Redmayne
 21. James Meyer
 22. Thomas Broich
- *three to be omitted*

Unavailable: 12. Matt MUNDY (knee injury – 4 weeks)
14. Rocky VISCONTE (ham-string strain – 4 weeks)

Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets

Sun 16 Oct Westpac Stadium 2:30pm

Two teams who have had their fair share of off field drama over the offseason meet on Sunday afternoon.

The coach less Jets proved their mettle last Saturday by coming from behind to defeat the Melbourne Heart. After a week of turmoil and going a goal down early to the Heart, it would have been very easy for the Jets players to throw in the towel, but they dug deep and with a bit of luck were able to scratch out a 3-2 win. Ryan Griffiths was the star for the Jets with his two well taken goals meaning they went in with a half-time lead and when Byuns injury time strike took a wicked deflection into the back of the net the 12,000 Novocastrians' who turned out were in raptures.

It was a case of the one that got away for the Phoenix, as they stoutly defended Chris Greenacres 17th minute opener. They survived close shave after close shave, but when James Brown dinked inside two defenders and opened fire there was nothing Mark Paston could do.

Wellington's Vince Lia joins an injury list that already includes Lucas Pantelis and Mirjan Pavlovic. Ricki Herbert will be sweating on the fitness of key players Paul Ifill,



TV: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports Radio: The Radio Network (Wellington)
Odds: Phoenix 1.93 Draw 3.45 Jets 4.10

Mark Paston and Dani Sanchez, who showed plenty of promise – all injured in the opening day draw. Hastily signed players Alex Smith and Cameron Lindsay will likely be thrown in to the deep end at some point against Newcastle.

It is probable that Nick Ward will fill the gap left by Lia, leaving Manny Muscat in the defensive line – where he excelled last time out. But question marks will be put over the quality of a midfield of Tim Brown and Ward and if Newcastle can take advantage of their weaknesses Wellington could be in for

a tough afternoon.

The Jets should have Marko Jesic - who scored the winner against Wellington last November – back in the side as well as New Zealand midfielder Jeremy Brockie. By their own admission they 'could have defended a lot better' in conceding two goals to Melbourne Heart and will want to tighten up at the back.

And they too will have their own internal idiosyncrasies. It is only a week since interim coach Craig Deans took over the role after the unexpected departure of Branko

Culina and his son. There are still question marks over whether that's long enough to gel.

The Phoenix have an imposing record against Newcastle at home, having won their previous six encounters against the Jets in New Zealand. I expect a pretty intense contest here, but despite having a fairly threadbare squad I think that Wellington should be able to just nick it.

With Joe Gallagher

**Prediction
Phoenix 2-1 Jets**



Line Ups

1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
2. Taylor Regan
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Tiago Calvano
6. Ben Kantarovski
7. Kasey Wehrman
8. Jeremy Brockie
10. Ruben Zadkovich
11. Tarek Elrich
12. Jobe Wheelhouse (c)
13. Sung-Hwan Byun
14. Labinot Haliti
15. Chris Payne
17. James Virgili
18. Marko Jesic
19. Matthew Nash
22. Ali Abbas
23. Ryan Griffiths

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MELBOURNE HEART FC



Top Row: Adrian Zahra, Kamal Ibrahim, Kristian Sarkies, Rutger Worm, Michael Marrone, Kliment Taseski, Mate Dugandzic.

Middle Row: Jonatan Germano, Brendan Hamill, Curtis Good, Nick Kalmar, Nikola Roganovic, Clint Bolton, Eli Babalj, Jason Hoffman, Maycon, Wayne Srhoj.

Front Row: David Williams, Fred, Simon Colosimo, John Aloisi (Assistant/ Youth Coach), John van't Schip (Head Coach), Ante Milicic (Assistant Coach), Peter Zois (Goalkeeping Coach), Matt Thompson, Alex Terra, Aziz Behich.



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MELBOURNE
HEART



Line Ups

2. Michael MARRONE
 3. Brendan HAMILL
 5. FRED
 6. Matt THOMPSON
 7. Rutger WORM
 8. Kristian SARKIES
 9. MAYCON
 10. Wayne SRHOJ
 11. Alex TERRA
 13. Jonatan GERMANO
 15. David WILLIAMS
 16. Aziz BEHICH
 17. Jason HOFFMAN
 18. Curtis GOOD
 22. Nick KALMAR
 23. Mate DUGANDZIC
 24. Nikola ROGANOVIC (Gk)
 30. Sebastian MATTEI (Gk)
- *three to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Simon Colosimo calf (2 weeks)
Clint Bolton groin (2 weeks)

Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory

Sun 16 Oct AAMI Park 5:00pm

Despite an impressive opening round performance, the pressure will quickly mount if the Heart can't come away with the points here.

The Melbourne Heart travelled to Newcastle last Saturday, knowing that they'd be up against it after the week the Jets had just endured.

To Melbourne's credit they weathered any predicted early onslaught from the Jets and with incisive passing they soon had an early lead thanks to Mate Dugandzic.

Defensive errors gifted the Jets a halftime lead however and John Van't Schip would have been annoyed that his players still chose to play it out from the back in the shadows of half time, when launching it long would have seen the visitors go into the break on par. In the second half the visitors were fantastic again and when Dugandzic restored parity the Heart



TV: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports Radio: 91.3 SportFM
Odds: Heart 2.27 Draw 3.30 Glory 3.20

looked certain to take their first point of the season.

However deep into injury time disaster struck, as a shot from Byun deflected off Michael Marrone and left young goalkeeper Nikola Roganovic stranded. It was a cruel blow for the Heart who deserved at least a point from the match. Perth could not have asked for a better start to their campaign with a well

deserved 1-0 win over Adelaide. Ian Fergusons's only gripe will be with some of his sides finishing but apart from that it was a top notch performance from a side who has so often promised so much then delivered so little. The Heart will be looking to include ex-captain Simon Colosimo, while Clint Bolton will miss again with a groin strain.

These sides met 3 times last season, with all three matches ending in a draw. I get the feeling the trend might continue here with the Glory looking in top form and the Heart with everything to play for despite their impressive start to the campaign.

**Prediction
Heart 1-1 Glory**



Line Ups

- 1.Danny VUKOVIC
 - 2.Josh MITCHELL
 - 3.Bas Van Den BRINK,
 - 4.Billy MEHMET
 - 6.Chris COYNE
 - 7.Jacob BURNS
 - 8.Adam HUGHES
 - 9.Shane SMELTZ
 - 10.Liam MILLER
 - 12.Scott NEVILLE
 - 13.Travis DODD
 - 14.Steven McGarry
 - 15.Tommy AMPHLETT
 - 16.Evan BERGER
 - 17.Todd HOWARTH
 - 18.Jesse MAKAROUNAS
 - 19.Josh RISDON
 - 20.Neil YOUNG
 - 21.Mile STERJOVSKI
 - 22.Adam TAGGART
 - 27.ANDREZINHO
- *five to be omitted*

Unavailable:
11.Victor SIKORA (hip – long term injury list)

Maycon ready to wear Heart on his sleeve

By Matthew Galea

Described as a "typical 18 yard striker" by his new manager, John van't Schip, Maycon is the Heart's third Brazilian player on the playing roster, in what could be said to be another emphatic statement from the Heart about their ambitions to provide the fans with high quality, entertaining, attacking football.

John van't Schip highlighted Maycon's mobility as one of his key assets, meaning he easily fits into the Heart's fluid attack, joining the likes of fellow new boys David Williams, Mate Dugandzic and first season stars Alex Terra, Rutger Worm and Adrian Zahra. Mr. van't Schip stated that a lot of research went into the signing of Maycon, whom he had followed since last season, to ensure that he was the right player for the club, with particular attention to the number of games Maycon had played over the last few seasons, in hope of avoiding problems with fitness such as those experienced with Alex Terra in the club's debut season.

Maycon comes to Australia having played in the prestigious Rio de Janeiro State Championship with

his old club, Nova Iguacu, where he played against some very strong sides in the form of Fluminense, Vasco de Gama and Flamengo. Maycon scored six goals throughout the competition, putting him in good stead for a good campaign with Melbourne Heart. John van't Schip highlighted the fact that Maycon had to work hard at his old club, and believes that this background will make Maycon well suited to football in Australia.

Of course, van't Schip was also quick to point out that the pre-season would be pivotal in ensuring that Maycon was prepared for the upcoming season, not just physically, but mentally too:

"The only thing is, we still have to see how he will adjust."

"The good thing is, we are still in the early stages, so hopefully he will feel at home here. With Alex and Fred, I think that will help him a lot and of course we will be there to help him a lot."

Maycon, who spoke through an interpreter, himself was delighted to have sealed a move to Melbourne Heart, a move which he felt he had to make to improve himself as a footballer:

"I watched a few matches and the

style of football is very similar to mine, so I had a chat to my family and decided that it was important for me to leave Brazil and play abroad, and Australia seemed a great place to go."

The presence of Fred and Terra at the club undoubtedly made Maycon's decision to leave his homeland for Melbourne earlier, confirming that he had spoken to Terra prior to arriving in Melbourne. The good words spoken about Melbourne were of great encouragement to Maycon, who hails from São Fidélis in Rio de Janeiro, who sees the move as an important part of his continuing football education:

"I hope to play well here and stay here as long as I can. Of course, the dream of every player is to play for a big club in Europe, so maybe I will go to Europe in the future."

Maycon agreed with his manager's assessment of his work ethic, underlining his commitment to giving the Heart his all on the pitch, particularly when the big Melbourne derby rolls around in round three:

"I am aware of the rivalry and I am going to prepare myself and train hard, but not just for this game but for all the other games."



The Samba beat comes to Heart this season as Maycon becomes the third Brazilian to call AAMI Park home, along with Fred and Alex Terra. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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Glory, Glory, Billy Mehmet



Perth Glory new boy Billy Mehmet gets the seal of approval from coach Ian Ferguson. Photo: Courtesy PGFC. Inset: In the colours of St Mirren and scoring the winner on debut last week against Adelaide United.

PERTH Glory striker Billy Mehmet could prove to be the A-League import of the season, more than offsetting the loss of fan favourite and football god Robbie Fowler.

While there's been an understandable media frenzy surrounding the homecomings of Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton, Mehmet's arrival in the West has attracted less attention nationally but that could be about to change.

Why? Because this former Irish under-21 international has an outstanding résumé and at 27 years old is at the peak of his powers as a professional footballer.

So why did he head Down Under when clubs in Britain and Europe were keen on securing his talents? "I wasn't enjoying my football in Turkey," he said.

"Don't get me wrong. The financial side of it was brilliant but you've got to enjoy what you're doing.

"And the lifestyle here is something else. Beaches, swimming pools ... that's a big factor.

"Also it's because of the A-League. It's an up-and-coming league that hasn't been going long and when you see some of the players that have been involved it's pretty impressive."

Victorians will get a firsthand look at the former West Ham starlet when they flock to AAMI Park on Sunday at 5pm to see their home team heroes Melbourne Heart confront the attacking might of Mehmet and Kiwi international Shane Smeltz.

This is a completely revamped Glory strike force from last season when the club finished a disappointing second last but a lot of wise heads are nodding approvingly at Perth's attacking options now. Mehmet and Smeltz first played

together at Gençlerbirliği in Turkey's Super Lig in 2010 and as their partnership develops at Glory it could prove to be the most potent in the competition.

Smeltz already is a dual A-League Golden Boot winner while Mehmet was St Mirren's leading scorer for three years running in the Scottish Premier League.

Throw Brazilian import Andreinho, ex-Celtic, Manchester United and Hibs midfielder Liam Miller and former Adelaide star Travis Dodd into the new mix and you can see why Glory is touted as a serious grand final contender. Not that Mehmet is buying into that one.

"I've got my own aims for this season but I'm keeping them to myself," he said.

"To be fair I've only been here for four weeks so I don't really know what's been said beforehand but I know that we want to do a lot better than last season."

And Glory took a small step toward achieving that aim by creating its own piece of history last weekend – it won its first ever A-League season opener.

That was thanks to Mehmet who started his Glory stint in style. This 1.89m of power and mobility with a fine first touch capped a man-of-the-match performance on debut with a stooping headed winner in the second half of his side's 1-0 triumph over visitor Adelaide United. It was enough to send the Glory hordes into a frenzy but this weekend will provide a test of how well the team travels and whether or not it can meet the challenge of first-round loser Heart head on.

"Hopefully we can go there and create chances. To be honest I know absolutely nothing about them

(Heart). I'm just learning about the other clubs week by week."

But he's a quick learner. He already has learned to enjoy living in Perth having moved into accommodation in Leederville along with teenage teammate Adam Taggart and former Victory and Gold Coast star Steve Pantelidis who is trying out with Glory in a bid to claim the last spot on its playing roster.

"It's great in Perth. The boys have been brand new and they made me feel welcome straight away," said Mehmet.

And there's no language barrier, crazy training times or unprofessional training sessions which tarnished his Turkish experience. Yet his move to Ankara in May 2010 had started with so much promise. Out of contract with St Mirren he signed a lucrative three-year deal with Gençlerbirliği hoping to emulate another English-born player, Colin Kazim-Richards, by breaking into the full Turkey squad.

Born in London to an English mother and a Turkish Cypriot father, Mehmet had made one appearance for Ireland's under-21s thanks to an Irish grandmother.

But not having made a full senior appearance he was still free to play for Turkey, an aim he stated openly after signing for Gençlerbirliği.

"I'm delighted to be moving and I admit that making the international squad would be a dream come true for me," he told skyports.com at the time.

But reality soon set in. Six months later Gençlerbirliği was looking to cut costs and was preparing to let some of its foreign squad members depart.

"Apart from the language problem there were some other problems there as well. We had to do three

sessions a day during our pre-season and you were waking up at absolutely ridiculous times in the early morning.

"And there were problems with training. When me and Shane Smeltz were going to do some shooting drills, for example, the goalkeepers wouldn't want to do it. It wasn't very professional."

And professional is a word that's been part of Mehmet's vocabulary for a long time, almost 20 years in fact, because West Ham signed the child prodigy at the tender age of eight.

He was 14 when he became the youngest first team scorer in Hammers history and despite being courted by Arsenal, Norwich, Millwall and Crystal Palace it was Dunfermline that snared his signature in 2003.

Two years later he joined St Mirren and it was his goals that kept the Paisley outfit in the Scottish Premier League. He was Saints' top scorer in 2007-08 with nine goals, 2008-09 with 11 goals and 2009-10 with 13 goals.

Two of his goals during his St Mirren stint stand out in terms of significance – converting the penalty that dumped a shell-shocked Celtic out of the Scottish Cup in 2009 and a superb curling shot that gave Saints a 1-0 League Cup semi win over Hearts in February 2010.

Mehmet had high hopes as he strode onto the hallowed Hampden turf on 21 March 2010 to face hot favourite Rangers in the League Cup final in front of a crowd of 44,538.

But a day that promised so much ended up being the low point of his career.

St Mirren dominated the first half and Mehmet and fellow striker Mi-

chael Higdon were giving the Ibrox outfit all sorts of problems.

When Rangers' duo Kevin Thomson and Danny Wilson were red carded in the second half St Mirren seemed all but assured of a famous victory until Kenny Miller's header in the 84th minute settled the issue. "That is the most disappointing moment of my career," said Mehmet. "We'd beaten Hearts in the semis and we'd played really well in the final until Miller's goal late on. It was a difficult thing to take, horrible really, but you have to move on from these moments."

And Mehmet's done a lot of moving since then. Two stints with two clubs in Turkey, then seeing a move back to Scotland with Hearts fall through, trialling with Notts County in England followed by a trial with Wellington Phoenix in New Zealand before being snapped up by Glory. Mehmet had agreed terms with Hearts a couple of months ago but that deal collapsed when manager Jim Jefferies was sacked on 1 August.

A short trial with County ensued despite reports linking him with various SPL and English Championship outfits.

Nothing came of that and the same fate awaited him in NZ where he was hampered by injury in Phoenix's 5-1 thumping by Brisbane Roar in a pre-season clash.

"I went to Wellington Phoenix for a week but when I went there I got injured and played in a formation which was a 4-5-1 and it was me dropping onto their deepest midfielder, which doesn't suit my style of play."

Phoenix boss Ricki Herbert decided that Mehmet was not the quality striker he was on the lookout for to round off his squad.

But as soon as Herbert had made that decision Ferguson contacted Mehmet and wanted to sign him straight away.

It could prove to be the best bit of business that the Glory gaffer has conducted during his short time at the club.

And it's a decision that could come back to haunt Herbert because although they won't openly admit it Mehmet and his teammates are hell-bent on blazing a trail of glory this season.

THE FACT FILE

- Signs with West Ham as an eight-year-old
- As a 14-year-old becomes youngest ever to score in a first team match for West Ham
- 2003: Signs for Dunfermline Athletic on 8 May. Makes 49 appearances, scores three goals
- 2005: Signs for St Mirren on 27 July. Makes 141 appearances, scores 39 goals
- 2009: Scores only goal of game on 7 March as St Mirren dump Celtic out of the Scottish Cup at the quarter-final stage
- 2009: Scores five goals for St Mirren on 2 August in 6-3 League Cup romp against East Stirling
- 2010: Scores only goal of game for St Mirren on 2 February against Hearts in League Cup semi-final
- 2010: On 21 March plays full game in 1-0 Scottish League Cup final loss to Rangers at Hampden Park
- 2010: Signs for Gençlerbirliği on 10 May. Makes 14 appearances, scores two goals
- 2011: Signs for Samsunspor in January. Makes nine appearances, scores two goals
- 2011: On 5 September signs one-year deal with Perth Glory



Melbourne Heart

1 Clint Bolton	G
2 Michael Marrone	D
3 Brendan Hamill	D
4 Simon Colosimo	D
5 Fred	M
6 Matt Thompson	D
7 Rutger Worm	M
8 Kristian Sarkies	M
9 Maycon	F
10 Wayne Srhoj	M
11 Alex Terra	F
13 Jonatan Germano	M
14 Kamal Ibrahim	F
15 David Williams	F
16 Aziz Behich	D
17 Jason Hoffman	F
18 Curtis Good	D
19 Eli Babalj	F
20 Adrian Zahra	M
21 Kliment Taseski	M
22 Nick Kalmar	M
23 Mate Dugandzic	F

Ins
Mate Dugandzic (Melb Victory)
Curtis Good (AIS)
David Williams (Nth Qld Fury)
Fred (DC United, USA)
Jonatan Germano (Estudiantes)
Maycon (Nova Iguacu)

Outs
John Aloisi (Retired)
Josip Skoko (Retired)
Peter Zois (Retired)
Michael Beauchamp (Sydney FC)
Dean Heffernan (Liaoning Whowin,)
Gerald Sibon (Heerenveen, Holl)
Ante Tomic (Sydney United)

High hopes held for Heart

By David Manuca

Kick-off for the 2011/12 A-League season arrives after a long and toilsome off-season, the action begins this weekend, with the excitement hitting fever pitch.

Never before has there been so much hype surrounding the A-League, with media attention at an all-time high thanks to a number of high-profile signings.

The quality of football is expected to be the best on show in the seven year history of the league and the players, staff, fans, media - basically everyone can't wait!

Last season Melbourne Heart finished just outside the finals position in their inaugural season. It was a great effort for a side that was built in a short period of time.

Heart were victorious in the first ever Melbourne derby with a 2-1 win against Melbourne Victory. The other two finished in a Victory win and a draw.

However Melbourne Heart only managed four wins at home last season and only one of them came after the Melbourne derby in October.

But what's in store for the Heart this season?

Arrivals: Mate Dugandzic (Melbourne Victory), Curtis Good (AIS), David Williams (North Queensland Fury), Fred (DC United), Jonatan Germano (Estudiantes), Maycon (Nova Iguacu).

Departures: John Aloisi, Josip Skoko, Peter Zois (Retired), Michael Beauchamp (Sydney FC), Dean Heffernan (Liaoning Whowin), Gerald



Some might say the honeymoon is officially over for Heart and the time to deliver has now arrived.
Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

Sibon (SC Heerenveen), Ante Tomic (Sydney United).

Melbourne Heart has made a number of quality signings in the attacking-third in the off-season which include David Williams, Mate Dugandzic, Fred, Maycon and Jonatan Germano to fill the void left by the retirement of John Aloisi, Josip Skoko and the departure of Gerald Sibon.

Heart has also added Curtis Good from the AIS as well as Nikola Roganovic from VPL champions Green Gully Cavaliers as a back-up goalkeeper to Clint Bolton.

With the retirement and departures of experienced players John Aloisi, Gerald Sibon and Josip Skoko, head coach John van't Schip has looked towards youth for next season.

It shows with Heart's average age for this season at 23 years old, which is

lower than last season's which was roughly 27.

The senior players in the squad are surely going to have a positive impact on the younger players who can intake invaluable experience from them and grow.

Van't Schip has come out and said that reaching the finals is his only aim, and with the team he has built up, going all the way is definitely achievable.

After a disappointing first season where Heart just missed out on finals action, the buzz around the club is electric!

During the long off-season Heart ventured into the community, holding many clinics for schools and clubs as well as playing a number of friendly games around the state.

Shepparton, Langwarrin, Ballarat



John van Schip knows he must get the formula right.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

and Morwell are just some of the places Heart visited, strongly enforcing their stance as a community club.

Membership numbers are up on last season and with some exciting times ahead, Heart are surely in store for a great season.

Prediction: Heart will need to have a better home record this season to have a chance of reaching the finals. With only four wins out of fifteen at home last season, picking up the three points at AAMI Park is crucial. It's hard to predict but Heart have a very good squad on paper and with a more established and settled squad, Heart should just reach the finals.

Players to watch: New signings Fred and David Williams are two players



Much is expected of new Brazilian signing Maycon.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

to look out for next season. Williams joined from North Queensland Fury and the young forward will be looking to make an impact immediately and live up to his great potential.

Fred comes from DC United in the United States and is no stranger to the A-League. He has been made captain for the upcoming season and fans will be expecting a lot from him. I'm sure he'll live up to the hype and lead Heart to the finals.

First match: vs Newcastle Jets – Saturday 8 October at Ausgrid Stadium, Newcastle. 4.30pm kick-off.

First home game: vs Perth Glory, Sunday 16 October at AAMI Park, Melbourne. 5pm kick-off.



Perth Glory

INS:
Evan Berger (Melb Victory)
Travis Dodd (Adelaide United)
Adam Hughes (Adelaide United)
Andre Luiz Rodrigues Lopes (Consadole Sapporo, Japan)
Jesse Makarounas (AIS)
Liam Miller Hibernian, Scotland)
Billy Mehmet (Samsunspor, Turkey)
Shane Smeltz (Gold Coast United)
Neil Young (Newcastle Jets)
Bas van den Brink (Busan I'Park, Korea)
Danny Vukovic (Wellington Phoenix)

OUTS:
Robbie Fowler (Muangthong United, Thailand)
Branko Jelic (released)
Anthony Skorich (released)
Aleks Vrteski (Solo FC, Indonesia)
Tando Velaphi (Melb Victory)
Michael Baird (Mariners)
Naum Sekulovski (released)
Andy Todd (Oldham Athletic, England)
Andrija Jukic (Bogor Raya, Indonesia)
Jamie Harnwell (Sorrento)
Brent Griffiths (released)
Howard Fondyke (released)

By Ashley Morrison

The start of each season of the Hyundai A league Perth Glory fan's hearts have been filled with hope, that this will be the season that the club may get close to the levels at which the club finished the NSL. Just one finals appearance has meant that virtually each season has ended in disappointment.

Last season proved one of the most depressing so far. The decision to let David Mitchell move upstairs destabilized the club and it was reflected by the results on the park, which were no less than woeful.

The Hatt Review – a review into the club by David Hatt – highlighted a number of areas for change, yet this season's recruiting appears in the main to have ignored many of those recommendations.

There is no doubt that coach Ian Ferguson has assembled what on paper looks a strong squad, that has cover in virtually every position; quite how it has been assembled within the salary cap is one question doing the rounds.

However the big question is can the team turn what looks good on paper into results on the park? If they don't then questions will have to be asked.

The club has made many new signings this season, in has come proven goal scorer Shane Smeltz as a marque signing for three years. Goalkeeper Danny Vukovic has also joined and these two would appear to be two of the best signings from

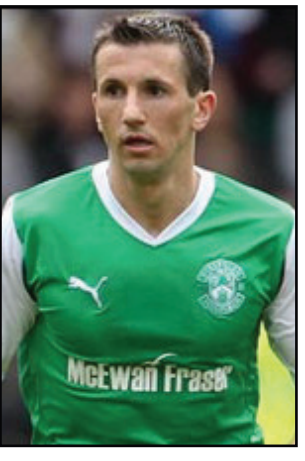


Travis Dodd switches to Perth from Adelaide United.
Photo: PETER NEVILLE

within the A League. Both have proven track records and can do a job at both ends of the park.

Joining Smeltz up front is Bill Mehmet who has so far looked to be the perfect foil for the New Zealander. He is strong in the air and works extremely hard off the ball, and importantly he knows where the back of the net is. If kept fit these two could form a very fruitful partnership.

In midfield Ferguson has recruited well. Adam Hughes joining from Adelaide has linked up well with import Liam Miller, who has a touch of class when it comes to distribution and could well be the link man that Perth Glory have missed for so long. Miller comes with a reputation of sometimes having issues off the pitch, it is hoped that these are behind him, as he could well become the star of Perth Glory this season.



Liam Miller arrives in Australia with a deadly reputation from Europe.
Photo: SYDNEY LOW

Also in midfield is AIS recruit Jesse Makarounas, who has matured as a player but will probably be peripheral this season. Also coming in is Travis Dodd from Adelaide, who can on his day destroy teams, what is encouraging is the pressure being put on Dodd by Tommy Amphlett who has looked extremely sharp in pre-season. Dodd is likely to get the nod, but a stronger and smarter Amphlett could well be a hugely successful impact player of the bench, if given enough time to make an impact.

The defence is an area of concern. On the right youngsters Scott Neville and Josh Risdon will vie for the right back position. Centrally it will see a combination of Chris Coyne, back from injury, Josh Mitchell and new recruit Bas van den Brink, which although strong aerially lacks a little



Shane Smeltz joins the Glory revolution and is worth his weight in goals.
Photo: ADAM BUTLER

pace and could be found wanting against a quick attack; although van den Brink has proved he is a greater reader of the game, which compensates for his lack of pace.

It is however left back and possibly left midfield where the Glory's season could come unraveled. The underachieving Mile Sterjovski has been occupying the wide left role in midfield along with injury replacement for Victor Sikora, Andrezinho. Neither has looked that impressive, but more importantly neither likes to defend.

The left back position has been filled by Todd Howarth and Evan Berger, the latter having joined from Melbourne Victory. The same problem applies with these two players, they look good going forward but suspect defensively.

The Hatt review recommended



Glory fans hope Mile Sterjovski can find his shooting boots again.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

younger players but Ferguson like his predecessor, being on a one-year deal, has opted for experience to lift the team into the finals and obtain another year's contract. As stated he has recruited a solid squad and one that should be competitive, but it could well come down to these players staying fit and available.

The team has a spine, it has flair on the flanks, and it has a proven goal scorer up front. If it all clicks Perth Glory could well start putting a smile back on the faces of their patient and loyal fans.

In reality, they should expect a mid-table finish. They will score goals, but they may well concede many unless Vukovic is in inspired form. This is a good team, better than in recent years, but is still far from being a team that can challenge for honours come the season's end.

Knights triumph in Croatian Cup Tournament



To the victor the spoils! Melbourne Knights capture back-to-back Croatian Cups last weekend after defeating Sydney United 2-0 in the final. Inset: Better hope someone's mum has got a Whirlpool. Photos: STEVE STAREK

By Melinda Cimera

The Melbourne Knights have returned triumphant from the 37th Croatian Soccer Tournament, taking out the Division 1 title for the second year running.

The 37th Croatian Tournament, hosted by Kralj Tomislav, kicked off last Thursday night, with an opening ceremony where a record 52 participating teams proudly showed off their team colours and organisers gifted each of the clubs with a tournament flag. After speeches, anthems and a spectacular fireworks display, the Melbourne Knights (competing as Melbourne Croatia) took the field in the opening game of the Tournament to face their opponents, the locally based, Hurstville Zagreb. Supporters witnessed a tense opening match, resulting in a nil-all final score line.

Day 2 saw Melbourne Croatia face Fremantle Croatia and Canberra Croatia, where they notched up two 2 - 0 wins, landing them on seven (7) points at day's end. On Saturday, in the final match played in the group stage, Croatia took on fellow Victorians, Dandenong Hajduk. With a semi-final spot all but assured, Tournament coach Micky Colina rested all but two senior starters. The young team did their coach and club proud by taking out the match 1 - 0, assuring MelbourneCroatia of a

top of the group finish. In the semi-final, Melbourne Croatia once again kept a clean sheet, scoring two goals against their Auckland opponents and booking a spot in the final on Sunday.

Sunday's final, held at the Sydney United Sports Centre, played on a muddy pitch and under challenging weather conditions, was a traditional Sydney/Melbourne derby. Despite the lack of senior experience in the Sydney United squad, the close match only changed in favour of the Melbournians when Micky Colina made some crucial changes early in the second half. MelbourneCroatia were eventual winners of the match and tournament with a familiar 2 - 0 score line recorded as the final whistle was blown. Two goals from Shaun Romein secured the victory and back-to-back titles for the Melbourne Croatian club.

While the Division 1 Championship marked a significant and memorable occurrence in the club's achievements, as did the success of the Women's team, who narrowly missed out on Sunday's final, going down 5-4 on penalties to eventual winners, Canberra Deakin. Until the semi-final, coach Tony Kolceg and the players were undefeated in the tournament, doing both themselves and their club proud.

Finally, it was a proud moment for all associated with Melbourne Knights/

Croatia at the Convention Centre in Darling Harbour on Saturday night when Miss Ivana Raspudic was selected to represent the community as Miss Croatia Australia New Zealand 2011. As a current committee member and volunteer, she was described by the judging panel as beautiful, intelligent and forward thinking. Ivana joins, and is proud to represent, the long list of women who have admirably and selflessly supported the club in their long and distinguished history.

Tournament coach Micky Colina had this to say about the 37th Annual Croatian Tournament, "It was a great weekend, that became even greater when we qualified and won the final of the Division 1 group against Sydney Utd 2-0.

I was given the opportunity to take over the group over the last two weeks as we prepared for the tournament, as the head coach Paul Magdic was unable to make the trip for personal reasons, so I as you can imagine I was ecstatic to go to Sydney and win the tournament.

It was an absolute pleasure to lead the boys in Sydney and I was very proud and honoured to be part of the Melbourne Knights group as I think we showed professionalism, pride and genuine Croatian passion across the weekend both on and off the park and I believe we were deserved winners in the end. I took the opportunity to add

some of my ideas to the team structure, also gave an opportunity to a number of up and coming youngsters and am very glad that it all paid off as we went through to tournament with 5 wins, 1 draw and not a single goal conceded, a wonderful effort by all.

I want to say thanks to all the people of Sydney who supported us and made us feel welcome and to all the organisers for the hard work in getting the tournament together.

There is also some special mentions that need to be made and they are as follows, thanks to the Melbourne Knights fans, the committee and of course the Melbourne Knights girls team who supported us throughout the weekend and showed what it means to be part of the Melbourne Knights, well done to all involved and this trophy belongs to all of us.

Now we all look forward to next year's tournament on the Gold Coast, hopefully we can make it three in a row."

The Melbourne Knights would like to thank Tournament hosts, Kralj Tomislav, members of the Savez, as well as all participants in this year's matches for continuing to work towards unifying Croatian clubs across Australia and New Zealand, and for keeping our traditions alive.



Yusuf Yusuf gets down and dirty in the final. Photo: STEVE STAREK

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Winners and gridders of the Premier Leagues

By Robert Di Fabio

With a cavernous closed season for Australia's elite domestic competition – a seven-month break, amid a later start to this year's A-League campaign – the local scene had extra significance.

Albeit the odd Socceroos fixture, the local state competitions were the only avenue for enthusiasts to engage in their state's highest altitude of football. For distinctive reasons, each state encompassed success, with an exuberance of talent, skill and enthusiasm all on display, in what was an exhibit of community football at its finest.

A review of each state league competition has been conducted.

Victoria

The Victorian football scene had a new partner in crime for the 2011 season, with the introduction of the state-wide knockout cup competition – the Mirabella Cup. Since the exploits of the Dockerty Cup, this constituent of football had been in recession since 2004 – last won by Green Gully Cavaliers – however the introduction of Victoria's newest cup competition was a grand addition to the landscape of our game.

The Victorian Premier League was the most closely contested in several years. Leading into the final round of the home and away season, numerous positions were up for grabs, amid the minor premiership becoming hot property.

In extraordinary circumstances, Green Gully – who started the final round in fifth position – trounced Bentleigh Greens 5-0, while the remaining four teams failed to claim victory, descending down the table. The Cavaliers ultimately leapfrogged its rivals to the summit of the table and miraculously claim the minor premiership. Only three points separated the top five, with Oakleigh Cannons sharing the spoils with Green Gully, only to finish second on goal difference.

A pulsating finals series saw Green Gully and Oakleigh Cannons book their tickets to the Grand Final at the amphitheatre of Victorian football, AAMI Park – a fitting finale with both clubs finishing in the top two. With the Cavaliers trailing 2-1 at the half-time interval, substitute Hamid Basma pulled a goal back to level the scores. The tie ventured into extra-time, where Basma verified his worth by scoring in the 95th minute, which proved to be the winning strike.

The Victorian powerhouse recorded back-to-back VPL titles, claiming their ninth state league championship – their sixth title in 12 years. An astonishing accomplishment.

At the other end of the table, St Albans Saints and Springvale White Eagles were instantly relegated back State League 1, after winning promotion to Victoria's pinnacle division in 2010. Whilst in an animated final day,



Green Gully clinched a record 9th VPL title this year after defeating Oakleigh Cannons 3-2 in the grand final.

Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Whittlesea Zebras won the honour of promotion, accompanied with Southern Stars to the VPL. Port Melbourne had encompassed top position for the majority of the season, only to be extinguished in the last hour.

Turning our attention towards the Mirabella Cup, the competition witnessed a raft of exhilaration, with the notion of the underdog prevailing in the hearts of the Victorian football community. Little known regional outfit, Cobram Victory made soundwaves throughout the tournament, prevailing over Whittlesea Zebras – who claimed the State League 1 championship, to win promotion back into the top flight of Victorian football – whilst also winning the scalp of FC Clifton Hill, who ply their trade in State League 2. Cobram were gallant, but ultimately succumbed to former NSL champions, Melbourne Knights 2-1 in the final 12.

The Knights went on to cement their birth in the inaugural cup final, locking horns with Northcote City, who dashed Green Gully's aspirations of winning an historic Victorian treble – comprising of the VPL minor premiership and championship and the Mirabella cup crown – by triumphing 2-1 in the semi final.

VPL Gold Medal winner, Glen Trifiro – best and fairest player throughout the VPL campaign – scored the opening goal in the final for Northcote City, before Nicholas Curtis sealed the victory with a strike on 71 minutes. Northcote's 2-0 feat was their first major trophy, and brought an upbeat closure to the Victorian football calendar.

Coaching changes in the VPL:

Arthur Papas' impressive season at Oakleigh Cannons – finalists in both the VPL and Mirabella Cup – has seen the 31-year-old-coach win a contact

with Melbourne Heart's foundational youth team, where he will be the assistant coach, working alongside former Socceroos striker John Aloisi.

Andy Vlahos has taken the reins at Heidelberg United, replacing George Katsakis as the first-team coach. Meanwhile, Peter Tsolakis will take charge of South Melbourne, succeeding Eddie Krncevic as coach.

VPL players winning A-League/National Youth League contracts:

Former Green Gully custodian Nikola Roganovic has signed with Melbourne Heart – initially as the club's back-up keeper – although injury to Clint Bolton just days before the season's opening has given Roganovic a grand opportunity to showcase his credentials. Last season's second choice keeper, Peter Zois – who plies his trade for Oakleigh Cannons – has been converted to the role of Heart goalkeeping coach.

Meanwhile, 19-year-old Craig Goodwin will play in Heart's inaugural youth league campaign, after impressing with Oakleigh Cannons this year.

New South Wales:

Sydney Olympic procured a fantastic campaign, to claim the minor premiership with a resounding display of football. The former NSL champion beat nearest rival Sydney Olympic by four points to win top spot after 22 rounds.

It was fitting that the two best-performed teams clashed in the New South Wales Premier League Grand Final. On the eve of the A-League's commencement, the finale was watched by an enthusiastic crowd of 10,138 at Belmore Sportsground.

In what was at times a tedious encounter, with a sense of caution de-

picted amongst the teams, Olympic ultimately got the better of their arch-rival, sealing victory with a convincing 2-0 triumph. The enchanted fairytale for former Sydney FC stalwarts Mark Rudan and Ufuk Talay didn't come into fruition – who are set to formally announce their retirement from all forms of the game – although they can hold their heads up with a towering sense of dignity and honour with what they have achieved in football.

Meanwhile, Paramatta FC and Bankstown City were relegated to the NSW Super League.

Queensland

Sunshine Coast Fire demonstrated their prominence in Queensland football by winning back-to-back Queensland State League championships, prevailing over former NSL triumphant Brisbane Strikers 1-0 at Perry Park. Reminiscent of the Victorian and NSW state league Grand Finals, both affiliates occupied the top two positions after the customary home and away season.

Sunshine Coast won the minor premiership by a margin of five points, and later on reconfirmed their supremacy with victory at the epicentre of the Queensland football calendar.

Western Australia:

The All Flags Premier League division served up a profusion of excitement and drama in the 2011 season. Balcatta SC was the run-away leaders, claiming the minor premiership by a whopping 12-point margin, over nearest rival Perth SC. Although, their presence at the summit of the WA football tree was short lived, bowing out to eventual winners Perth 2-1 in the major semi

final.

Perth, who finished the regulatory season in second spot, exemplified why they're the most revered outfit in WA football, trouncing Sorrento FC 7-0 at Frank Drago Reserve in an amazing Grand Final. The win cemented their third successive championship – a memorable way to cap off a tremendous hat-trick of titles. Perth are embarking on an incredible dynasty within WA football, can the champions create more history next year?

South Australia

The South Australian Super League served up an enticing finale to the home and away season, with Metro Stars edging their noses past the finishing line, winning the minor premiership by a solitary point over the prominent Adelaide City.

Despite their dominance throughout the year, neither side would go on to claim greater honours in the finals series. With both outfits slipping up in the earlier stages of the play-offs, it meant their double chance would see them play-off for a spot in the Grand Final. On this occasion, Adelaide City won the bragging rights, courtesy of a riveting 6-5 victory.

City ventured on to battle Adelaide Blue Eagles for the coveted championship. Evocative of the preliminary final, there was no room for caution, with an identical scoreline of 6-5. However, on this occasion Adelaide City were on the receiving end, gifting the Blue Eagles the win and the King's of South Australian football.

Tasmania:

In the Tasmanian Northern Premier League, Prospect Knights won the minor premiership by the barest



Northcote City had a year to remember after taking out the Mirabella Cup and Jason Trifiro won the Gold Medal.

of margins, equal on points with Northern Rangers, the Knights' superior goal difference proved to be the deciding factor. It was the club's first Premier League title in 52 years.

Moving over to the Tasmanian Southern Premier League, South Hobart won the minor premiership in compelling fashion, accounting of nearest competent Tilford Zebras by 11 points.

With the two divisions split on a geographical basis, the top four from the North and South leagues play-off to be crowned the State-Wide Tasmanian champions. The Grand Final was hosted South Hobart and New Town Eagles at Aurora Stadium, where South Hobart illustrated their supremacy, claiming a fulfilling 3-1 success.

Australian Capital Territory:

The ACT Premier League was conquered by Canberra FC from start to finish. Throughout the year, Canberra demonstrated their proficiency, winning by extravagant margin, and deservingly held the minor premiership in their qualms at the conclusion of the customary home and away season.

In what was deemed a thrilling Grand Final, Canberra FC and Canberra Olympic put on an excentric exhibition at Deakin Stadium – where a 13 goal thriller engulfed the finale. Showcasing vigour and fortitude, Olympic took it up to their city rivals, although Canberra FC proved to be a mountain too high, prevailing with an astounding 8-5 coup, to be depicted as the 2011 ACT champions – their fifth consecutive title.

Follow Robert on Twitter @Robert-DiFabio



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Spiranovic starts



By Roy Hay

Geelong's Matthew Spiranovic was Hoger Osiek's choice for the starting role in central defence with skipper Lucas Neill for the crucial World Cup qualifier against Oman at Sydney's ANZ stadium on Tuesday night. Most pundits expected the more experienced Sasha Ognenovski to play, but the youngster's speed and flexibility probably won him the nod. Spiranovic started shakily being caught on the break and then mis-kicking a clearance but then he settled to play a composed game combining with Neill to deal with the Omani counter-attacks. He and Neill also started most of the Australian moves out of their own half and finished as the only two

defenders as the coach brought on attacking players and the Socceroos cruised to a three-nil win. Two minutes after the interval, when Australia got a free kick on the right Spiranovic got on the end of it but his header went over the bar. Apart from one free kick in a dangerous area late the second half, Spiranovic did not put a foot wrong after that early period. After wards Holger Osiek said it was difficult to get into the game. 'Amad Al Hosni was a very dangerous player, very fast and he created a lot of problems. First of all you have to get a feeling for this guy, how he moves, what he does, and it takes some time. Later on he did very cleverly and it was as if he had been round for years already.'

VICTORY W-LEAGUE SQUAD ANNOUNCED

Melbourne Victory W-League Head Coach Vicki Linton announced her 20 player squad for the 2011/12 Westfield W-League season which kicks off on Saturday 22 October.

This season sees the return of influential international players Kendall Fletcher and Jodie Taylor while introducing defender Danielle Johnson who joins from Sky Blue FC in the USA.

Eight new players will join a core squad of 12 who were a part of last season's successful team, making the finals for the first time.

Rebekah Stott joins from Champions Brisbane Roar and Katrina Gorry from Adelaide United, while Georgie Koutrouvelis and Jackie Vogt move up to the W-League after spending time with the National Training Centre.

Three players join from the local WPL competition including Gold Medal and Golden Boot Winner Laura Spiranovic (South Melbourne Women), prolific goal scorer Stephanie Tanti (Sandringham SC) and the versatile Cassandra Dimovski

(Box Hill United).

Linton says that the squad's preparation has been strong, and she is confident the team can have a successful season.

"I'm really excited for the upcoming Westfield W-League season, the three international players have now arrived and the intensity in training is great," said Linton.

"We have the core of last year's team, there's a really good feel about the group and they're looking forward to the first match.

"Last season we had our first top four finish and we're aiming to solidify that and play finals again." Linton is hoping to see big crowds in their five home games this year to give the girls an extra edge on the pitch.

"I encourage as many people as possible to come out and watch what will be a really exciting season," said Linton.

Melbourne Victory W-League's season kicks off at 5pm on Saturday 22 October against Perth Glory at Veneto Club, Bulleen.



Sydney's Caitlin Friend and Melbourne's Ashley Brown both with eyes on the ball.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

Melbourne Victory W-League Draw

Sat 22 October 2011 Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory, Veneto Club Bulleen 5pm
Sat 29 October 2011 Melbourne Victory @ Sydney FC, Leichhardt Oval 3pm
*Sat 12 November 2011 Melbourne Victory @ Canberra United, McKellar Park 3pm
Sat 19 November 2011 Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United, Veneto Club Bulleen (time TBC)
Sat 26 November 2011 Melbourne Victory @ Brisbane Roar, Suncorp Stadium 5pm (4pm QLD time)
*Sat 3 December 2011 Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets, Venue TBC 3pm
Sat 10 December 2011 Melbourne Victory @ Perth Glory, 6PR Stadium, Inglewood 7pm (4pm WA time)
*Sat 17 December 2011 Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar, Skilled Stadium, Geelong 3pm
Fri 30 December 2011 Melbourne Victory v Canberra United, Veneto Club Bulleen 5pm
Sun 15 January 2012 Melbourne Victory @ Adelaide United, Burton Park 3:30pm (3pm SA time)
* Denotes live television broadcast on ABC Sport.

Melbourne Victory W-League 2011/12 Squad

1: Brianna Davey 2: Rita Mankowska 3: Ashley Brown
4: Kendall Fletcher 5: Rebekah Stott 6: Maika Ruyter-Hooley
7: Stephanie Catley 8: Enza Barilla 9: Georgie Koutrouvelis
10: Jodie Taylor 11: Caitlin Friend 12: Amy Jackson
13: Katrina Gorry 14: Stephanie Tanti 15: Danielle Johnson
16: Louisa Bisby 17: Gulcan Koca 18: Jackie Vogt
19: Laura Spiranovic 20: Cassandra Dimovski
Alexandra Lynch (train-on)

Fans Forum

Dear GW,
Great game last night at Etihad even for a nil-nil draw, tremendous crowd atmosphere, and Harry Kewell was sharp as a tack.
But seriously why don't the A-League copy the AFL's interchange rule? Archie Thompson had a huge gash on his shin which clearly needed treatment, but was not necessarily game ending. He could have gone off for 5 minutes for a patch-up, and been replaced by a fit player for that period. Come on Football Australia, get with the way of the future.
Philip Mendes
Kew

BRIDGE TO MISS TWO GAMES

Sydney FC will be without striker Mark Bridge for two matches as there is no realistic avenue to appeal the decision handed down by the FFA's Match Review Panel (MRP) during the week.

Under the FFA Disciplinary Regulations a player or club is not entitled to appeal a MRP decision by referring the matter to the Disciplinary Committee unless the player receives a suspension over the minimum (two matches in Mark Bridge's case) or it can prove that "exceptional circumstances" exist.

A player or club can not claim "exceptional circumstances" in relation to a decision taken by a Match Official during the match, the conduct of other players or officials, the significance of the match or the significance of any matches the player will miss.

Under the FFA Disciplinary Regulations, there are no legitimate grounds for Sydney FC to appeal the deci-

sion, or state a case in Mark Bridge's defence in relation to the incident, the actions of Rodrigo Vargas immediately before the incident or the actions of Rodrigo Vargas immediately following the incident.

With that in mind, Sydney FC will accept the decision.

"We are disappointed that Mark will miss Saturday's first home game of the season against Brisbane Roar and the trip to Adelaide, which are two very important games for the Club," said Sydney FC CEO Dirk Melton.

"With the way the FFA Disciplinary Regulations are structured there is no realistic avenue for Sydney FC to appeal the decision of the Match Review Panel or to state a case in Mark's defence.

"Mark was standing his ground trying to charge down a free kick when he was illegally taken out of the game by a Melbourne Victory player. From the

footage that has been presented to the Club we don't believe there was conclusive evidence to highlight there was contact to the throat of the player as Mark was trying to push him aside to take up his position and challenge for the ball.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our Club to draw a line in the sand and say we won't dive. It is important for all in the game to acknowledge that Australians do not look favourably on anyone in sport who deliberately tries to milk a free kick or penalty. This is something that I believe we need to place greater scrutiny on in order for the game to be the best it can be in this country."

Sydney FC takes on Brisbane Roar at the Sydney Football Stadium on Saturday night (15 October) in the first home game of the season. Kick off is at 7.45pm.



Sydney's Mark Bridge gets his marching orders after the altercation with Victory's Rod Vargas. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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Couch Potato Dept. * ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



SBS ONE
Sunday October 16th
10:30 AM Football Asia

11:00 AM Les Murray's
Football Feature - Euro 2012 Qualifier:
France v Bosnia & Herzegovina
12:00 PM UEFA Champions League Magazine Program

Monday October 17th
04:30 PM Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday October 17th
09:30 PM The World Game

Wednesday 19 October
SBS ONE
5:30am - Live (aedt) - UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid v Lyon

SBS TWO
9:30pm - Delayed - UEFA Champions League: Napoli v Bayern Munich

Thursday 20 October
SBS ONE
5:30am - Live (aedt) - UEFA Champions League: Porto v APOEL

Friday 21 October
SBS ONE
5:45am - Live (aedt) - UEFA Europa League: Tottenham Hotspur v Rubin Kazan

Saturday 22 October
SBS TWO
7:00pm - Delayed - UEFA Europa League: Udinese v Atletico Madrid



Saturday 15-Oct
Bundesliga Round 9 Werder Bremen v Dortmund 5:25am LIVE
Blue Square Premier Round 16 Lincoln v Fleetwood 7:30am 1st Airing
Scottish Premier League Round 11 Kilmarnock v Celtic 10:25pm LIVE

Sunday 16-Oct
Scottish Premier League Round 11 Teams TBC 12:55am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 9 Schalke v Kaiserslautern 3:25am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 10 Nice v Bordeaux 5:55am LIVE
Eredivisie Round 9 Ajax v AZ 8:00am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 11 Teams TBC 11:15am LIVE
J-League Round 29 Kawasaki Frontale v Albirex Niigata 5:00pm LIVE
Eredivisie Round 9 PSV v Utrecht 7:00pm 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 10 Toulouse v Marseille 8:45pm 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 9 RKC v Twente 10:30pm 1st Airing

Monday 17-Oct
Bundesliga Round 9 Freiburg v Hamburg 12:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 9 Cologne v Hannover 2:25am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 10 Rennes v Lorient 5:55am LIVE
Primera Division Round 11 Teams TBC 8:10am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 10 Ajaccio v PSG 10:15am 1st Airing

Thursday 20-Oct
Copa Sudamericana Round of 16 1st Leg Sao Paulo v Libertad 10:45am LIVE



Monday 17th October
04:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup Arsenal's Greatest Goals
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Liverpool V Manchester United 5th Round 05/06

Wednesday 19th October
01:30 am Magic Of The FA Cup Tottenham Hotspurs' Greatest Goals
02:30 am Arsenal TV Arsenal V Sunderland
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Southampton V Tottenham Hotspur 3rd Round 02/03

Thursday 20th October
02:30 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V Manchester United
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Arsenal V Manchester United Semi Final 98/99

Thursday 20th October
12:00 pm Magic Of The FA Cup Arsenal's Greatest Goals

Saturday 22nd October
01:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup Newcastle United's Greatest Goals
02:30 am Arsenal TV Champions League: Arsenal Classic Match
05:30 am FA Cup Classics G West Ham United V Tottenham Hotspur 6th Round 00/01



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
ALL GAMES LIVE
Week 10
Sat Oct 15 Liverpool v Manchester United 10:38 pm
Sun Oct 16 Man City v Aston Villa 12:53 am
Sun Oct 16 Norwich v Swansea 12:53 am Viewers Choice

Sun Oct 16 QPR v Blackburn 12:53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 16 Stoke v Fulham 12:53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 16 Wigan v Bolton 12:53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 16 Chelsea v Everton 3:23 am
Sun Oct 16 West Brom v Wolves 9:53 pm
Sun Oct 16 Arsenal v Sunderland 11:23 pm Viewers Choice
Mon Oct 17 Newcastle v Tottenham 1:53 am

THE CHAMPIONSHIP
Sat Oct 15 Doncaster v Leeds 5:30 am
Sun Oct 16 Portsmouth v Barnsley 5:30 am DELAY
Sun Oct 16 Birmingham v Leicester 10:56 pm Viewers Choice

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE LIVE
Fri Oct 14 Adelaide v Melbourne 7:30 pm
Sat Oct 15 Central Coast v Gold Coast 5pm
Sat Oct 15 Sydney v Brisbane 7:30 pm
Sun Oct 16 Wellington v Newcastle 2:30 pm
Sun Oct 16 Melbourne Heart v Perth 4:30 pm

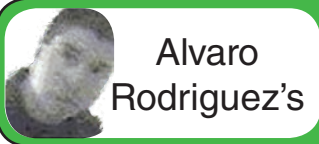


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Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am



Alvaro Rodriguez's

NAME: Democratic Republic of Congo
CAPITAL: Kinshasa
POPULATION: (2011 approx.) 71,712,867
CONFEDERATION: CAF
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 126th
AFRICAN NATIONS CUP WINS: 1968, 1974 (as Zaire)
WORLD CUP APPEARANCE: 1974 (as Zaire)

WHO ARE YA?
The Democratic Republic of Congo is a landlocked country situated in southern Central Africa, with the distinction of being the most populous French-speaking nation on Earth. Nearly a century of colonial rule at the hands of Belgium came to an end in 1960, with the declaration of the Republic of Congo. Independence had been won with blood and political activism in equal measure; although history mostly remembers Patrice Lumumba as the figurehead of Congolese independence, the truth is many contributed to the cause.

The country eventually adopted the name Zaire so as to avoid confusion with the former-French Congolese colony (today known as Congo-Brazzaville), and it was under this name that it qualified for the World Cup finals in 1974. In 1997 the country again changed its name, this time to the current Democratic Republic of Congo (or DR Congo for short).

SO WHAT YOU DONE?
As football-mad as any country in Francophone Africa, then-Zaire qualified for its first (and thus far only) World Cup in 1974 (along with



TP Mazembe players celebrate a goal en route to the World Club Final!

Australia!). In doing so they became the first-ever black-African nation to qualify for the finals, although their actual performances there were woeful - the worst being a 9-0 drubbing at the hands of Yugoslavia.

Their clash against Brazil featured one of World Cup history's most controversial moments, when Zaire's defender Mwepu Ilunga rushed out of his defensive wall to hoof the ball upfield before Brazil could take the free kick. Promptly booked, Ilunga later claimed his was a political-protest action, also claiming that the Zairean president had threatened the team prior to the tournament if they conceded more goals than was deemed 'appropriate'.

Nevertheless, their debut paved the way for the likes of Cameroon and Senegal to shine on the big stage in the future.

Besides this, the country's greatest football achievements are winning the 1968 and 1974 African Nations Cups. Since becoming DR Congo in 1997 the national team claimed 3rd place at the 1998 ANC and quarter-

Planet Football No.132 Congo

REP YOUR COLORS

As Zaire they were nicknamed The Leopards and wore green tops with yellow shorts and green socks. Upon becoming DR Congo they assumed the moniker 'The Simbas' (presumably after The Lion King character...) and a predominantly blue/gold strip to match the new national flag. When the flag changed again last decade a red/yellow sash was added to the blue of the national strip. The old nickname of Leopards has apparently been recently reinstated for the national team.

MATCHWINNERS

DR Congolese football boasts a plethora of European-based internationals such as former Monaco striker Dieumerci Mbokani (now at Anderlecht), former Galatasaray striker Shabani Nonda, and the most high-profile in West Ham's Hérila Ilunga. Former Portsmouth and Olympiakos man Lomana LuaLua has apparently received recent interest from Blackpool in their quest to return to the Premier League.

SO WHAT NOW?

Next up for the Simbas/Leopards is a two-leg date with Swaziland in World Cup qualifying this November, with victory ensuring them a place in Pot 4 for subsequent group-stage seeding. Having failed to qualify for the 2012 African Nations Cup co-hosted by Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, on top of the nation's flagship club barred from returning to the global stage this year, DR Congolese football sorely needs to give the World Cup qualifiers a red-hot shake and hopefully exceed the performance of the 1974 Leopards.

HOT: It may have been goal-less but nobody can rightly say the hotly-anticipated A-League debut of Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton was boring - goals aside this match had it all; a bumper crowd at Etihad and two bitter rivals in Victory and Sydney itching to one-up the other. The prodigal sons may have been the drawcard but keepers Ante Covic and Liam Reddy were undoubtedly the show-stealers for their respective sides. What's truly hot in my opinion is that the match was just the tip of the iceberg in an overall cracker of an opening round for season 2011/12. Bring on Round 2!

NOT: Lack of goals aside, my only gripe with the Melb/Syd clash was the individual (I'm assuming an incognito Sydney FC fan) in Level 3 Aisle 36 who took it upon himself to wage, er...'chemical warfare' against the rest of us poor adjacent spectators devoid of fresh air due to the stadium roof being closed! Mate, all I'm gonna say is you need a serious change of diet...!

Rory Flanagan's Best XI Quick Quiz

1. Adelaide United's public enemy Number 1, Archie Thompson was born in which country?

2. Name the player with the most appearances in the A-League to date

3. Who was appointed Captain of Brisbane Roar this season after Matt McKay left to join Scottish club Rangers?

4. Which A-league club did Brazilian Fred last play for prior to joining Melbourne Heart?

5. What is the salary cap limit set for A-League clubs? (as of last season)

6. Scorer of the Socceroos' third goal against Oman, Milé Jedinak played for which A-League club before moving to Gencelrbrlgi ?

7. Name the inaugural winner of the Johnny Warren medal.

8. Tenth on the all-time A-League goalscorers' list with 28 goals are which two players?

9. Ex-Melbourne Victory striker Robbie Kruse now plies his trade at Which German club?
10. What was the name of the naming rights sponsor for Perth Glory's stadium prior to nib?

11. Mining magnate Nathan Tinkler took over which Franchise last season?

Quiz Answers: 1. New Zealand 2. Matt Thompson 151 3. Matt Smith 4. Wellington Phoenix 5. A\$2.35 million 6. Central Coast Mariners 7. Bobby Despotovski 8. Fortuna Dusseldorf 9. Joel Griffiths & Kevin Muscat 10. Members Equity / ME Bank 11. Newcastle Jets

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Venezuela rejoices after Argentina shock

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

It has been an intense past week in the South American zone of the 2014 World Cup qualifiers that commenced last weekend on Saturday, local eastern Australian time.

Now the real business end began and it also meant the end to months of warm-up matches, speculation, media announcements, trials, experiments of formations and players and the time to start picking up points.

As mentioned, Brazil does not participate as hosts enabling the participating nations a bye every round and the fifth-placed spot goes up for grabs against the fifth-placed Asian team.

And it was Montevideo the stage for the first kick-off as Uruguay began stamping their authority against Bolivia at the historic and colossal Centenario stadium.

Only three minutes on the clock and Uruguay was in front courtesy of Luis Suárez. Captain Diego Lugano scored a brace, one was an easy tap-in from an open goal and fellow strike danger man Edinson Cavani also on the sheet as Bolivia responded with an equaliser from Rudy Cardozo and key reference up front in Marcelo Moreno Martins with a consolation three minutes from time from the penalty spot.

So no surprises under a rainy conditions in the Uruguayan capital. The excitement despite the weather was evident in the tiny nation's one and only world-renown football stadium. The crowd was right behind the newly-crowned continental South American Copa América holders. The final scoreline read 4-2 and three points for Uruguay.

Three hours later it was off to Quito for proceedings, up high in altitude at the Olympic stadium of Atahualpa where Ecuador met a buoyant Venezuelan side still reminiscing from their heroics at the Copa América last July.

Jaime Ayoví got celebrations underway nice and early after 15 minutes with an opening header igniting the capacity 40,000 strong crowd. Fel-



Ecstatic Venezuelans jubilant after the lone goal by Fernando Amorebieta creates history in their first ever-win over Argentina in World Cup qualification.

low Mexico-based Christian Benítez made it 2-0 and three points for Ecuador over Venezuela on 28 minutes and bring Venezuela crashing back to earth after its recent success.

Venezuela however would cause a surprise four days later with a stunning and deserved victory early Wednesday in Puerto La Cruz overcoming Argentina, 1-0.

No misprint or typing mistake there as Venezuela defeated Argentina and re-wrote the record books thanks to a header from Athletic Bilbao's Fernando Amorebieta. The central defender who has played for Spain at youth level opted for senior football for his country of birth and it has proved a wise decision. Coach César Farías also further cements himself as a wise tactician earning Venezuela much more respect across the football-mad continent.

Argentina was left on its knees thanking goalkeeper Mariano Andújar for his full-stretch saves. Venezuela was led throughout the match by captain Juan Arango with a spirited performance guiding his country to a first-ever win over Argentina in World Cup qualifying.

Alejandro Sabella, the Argentina coach spoke of concern for his men whom were far-fetched from the performance on Saturday in Buenos Aires against neighbours Chile. Despite counting on midfielder Javier Mascherano and defender Martin Demichelis through suspension and injury respectively, it made little difference.

Lionel Messi saw himself in his typical dribbling display but denied from a well-organised Venezuela defence. Messi was with plenty of space last Saturday conceded by a hapless, er-

rant and slow Chilean defence. Partner up front Gonzalo Higuaín scored a hat-trick as Argentina capitalised on dreadful clearances and defending from Waldo Ponce, a disoriented Arturo Vidal and a woeful Gonzalo Jara at the back.

Matías Fernández did get on the score sheet for Chile after some clever play from midfield wizard Jorge Valdivia was continually brought down - this time fouled in the penalty area by goalkeeper Raúl Fernández. Humberto Suazo scored from the spot, squeezing the ball past a full-stretch attempt by the Peruvian custodian. Relief for Chile with 3 points finally in the bag and impotence for Peru who hit the woodwork on several occasions.

The Peruvians did get the better of Paraguay in the opening day though with a 2-0 win, courtesy of a brace from Paolo Guerrero. The Hamburg SV forward caused problems throughout the match but the Copa América leading goalscorer was the difference in the home win.

It is a far different Peruvian side under Uruguayan Sergio Markarián, making use of its lethal forwards up front and looking far more dynamic and hungry for attacking football leaving behind, years of indiscipline, demeanour and woeful qualification campaigns.

The presence of veteran Roque Santa Cruz and forward Nelson Haedo Valdez did little as the two were tightly marked and Paraguay found little response to the well-formed tactical display by Markarián, who also previously coached them.

Not many coaches can attain the title of having coached a rival side, the other being Hernán Darío Gómez of Colombia coaching his native country and neighbours Ecuador as well

ever-present Claudio Pizarro up front reduced the 3-0 deficit to 3-1 who swiftly sneaked the ball past the first post. Then followed a header by Jefferson Farfán from a resulting Juan Vargas free-kick.

Chile continued surging with speedy breaks despite Peru's resurgence. Jorge Valdivia was continually brought down - this time fouled in the penalty area by goalkeeper Raúl Fernández. Humberto Suazo scored from the spot, squeezing the ball past a full-stretch attempt by the Peruvian custodian. Relief for Chile with 3 points finally in the bag and impotence for Peru who hit the woodwork on several occasions.

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Not many coaches can attain the title of having coached a rival side, the other being Hernán Darío Gómez of Colombia coaching his native country and neighbours Ecuador as well



Colombia overcame high altitude and a hostile reception in La Paz with a 92nd minute injury time winner from Falcao.

with Marcelo Bielsa leading Argentina atop in the Korea-Japan 2002 qualifiers and his influential success with Chile on the road to South Africa last year.

Paraguay on Wednesday hosted Uruguay who were sitting at the top of the standings alongside Argentina. The Paraguayans under new coach Francisco Arce were hoping however to make their home advantage count in Asunción at the always-intimidating Defensores del Chaco stadium and get their first points.

Diego Forlán stunned everybody after 67 minutes and Uruguay looked to grab three points safely but Paraguay ruined it with only 30 seconds remaining. Incredibly, on the 4th minute of injury time it took Richard Ortiz to score thus preventing Uruguay grabbing the maximum 6 points from the opening two matches.

Speaking of last-minute, heart-breaking injury time goals, Radamel Falcao played his part for Colombia up at the highest city in the world - that of La Paz in Bolivia on Wednesday.

It was the 92nd minute of time added on and the star Atlético Madrid signing made it 2-1 for the world-known coffee makers as Bolivia were holding on to a valuable draw from a hard-fought match.

With the third and fourth round of matches to be played in November 11th and 15th in the international FIFA calendar dates, there is all to play for.

Argentina are up against Bolivia in Buenos Aires and have a chance to put behind their shock away loss, Paraguay host Ecuador, Colombia meet fierce neighbours Venezuela in the coastal city of Barranquilla -

known as singer Shakira's home city while Uruguay host Chile at the Centenario. Peru has a bye.

On the 15th of November, Colombia once again play host in Barranquilla to Argentina which should be an eagerly anticipated match-up as the Colombians will look to cause another upset in the cards in the qualifying series.

Venezuela host Bolivia in San Cristóbal, Chile switches back to the National stadium in Santiago to host an always physical Paraguay and Ecuador once again at the altitudes of the Atahualpa in Quito hosting their neighbours down south, Peru who will be fresh with only the one match to play in November.

As always, stay tuned with all the exciting action as the road to Brazil from South America hots up. Adiós.

Find me on Twitter: twitter.com/FrancisFields

Sth America Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Uruguay	2	1	1	0	5	3	1	4
Argentina	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	3
Ecuador	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Colombia	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Peru	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
Chile	2	1	0	1	5	6	-1	3
Venezuela	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	3	6	-3	0

Recent Group Matches

Venezuela	1:0	Argentina
Paraguay	1:1	Uruguay
Chile	4:2	Peru
Bolivia	1:2	Colombia
Peru	2:0	Paraguay
Argentina	4:1	Chile
Uruguay	4:2	Bolivia
Ecuador	2:0	Venezuela

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Italy finishes Euro campaign unbeaten



Luca Cetta

Serie A was on hiatus as international football took centre stage last weekend. Italy completed their successful Euro 2012 qualification campaign with a draw in Serbia and a win over Northern Ireland.

Italy went into their final qualifiers knowing top spot was sealed, but for Cesare Prandelli's men the match in Belgrade on Friday represented a tough test in a hostile environment, against a team desperate for points. Italy was without the injured Giampaolo Pazzini, Mario Balotelli and Federico Balzaretti, with Argentine-born Roma striker Pablo Osvaldo was called up for the first time, a decision criticised by some, notably former Italy Coach Cesare Maldini.

Claudio Marchisio got the Azzurri off to the perfect start, finishing off a Giuseppe Rossi pass within the first minute! Branislav Ivanovic diverted the equaliser beyond Gianluigi Buffon, who conceded only Italy's second goal in qualifying, to give the hosts a share of the spoils.

Prandelli told journalists: "We held out well under pressure and it's something we'll have to do again in future. Last night's game confirmed this side has great character. Nobody wants to lose, nor play badly or get criticised."

Italy ran out comfortable 3-0 winners against Northern Ireland in Pescara on Tuesday. Antonio Cassano ended qualifying with six goals following a brace, while Gareth McAuley's own goal sealed the



Antonio Cassano inspired Italy to a 3-0 win over Northern Ireland in the mid-week Euro 2012 qualifiers.

result.

Cassano opened the scoring after 20 minutes with a wonderful volley from a Daniele De Rossi through ball. He then angled a low drive from the edge of the box eight minutes after the break to extend the lead. Balzaretti's flick rebounded off defender McAuley as Italy ended qualifying with the best overall defensive record.

Two-goal hero Cassano revealed after the match he is already planning retirement: "I keep coming in and out, but in three or four years I'll stop with the Nazionale. I think I'll play football for only that time, have a good Euros and a good World Cup, then at the age of 33 call it a day so I can enjoy my family."

Serie A resumes this weekend and on Sunday night eyes will be focused on Rome as the derby takes centre stage.

Both Roma and Lazio are on eight points, a win away from first place. Roma has grown in stature in each passing match under new boss Luis Enrique, but he will have to do without Giallorossi idol Francesco Totti, who will miss with a thigh strain. It is a huge blow, as the veteran scored both goals in Roma's 2-0 win last season and steps up for this occasion. Lazio will welcome back Stefano Mauri, but Miroslav Klose is struggling with a knee injury and looks set to be unavailable.

Milan will aim to overcome their disappointing start when they entertain Palermo. The Rossoneri have won just once in five matches, however, the Sicilians have not scored on their travels. Talk surrounding Milan has focused on Zlatan Ibrahimovic saying last week he has lost his desire for the game, but Coach

Massimiliano Allegri does not doubt the Swede's motivation to help Milan up the ladder.

League leaders Juventus travel to Chievo on a high after their victory over Milan. Mirko Vucinic was the latest from the camp to play down Scudetto expectations, but the team knows in order to lift the trophy at the end of the season they will need to take maximum points in these sorts of matches. Chievo have not lost this fixture for two seasons and will be hoping tiredness catches up with Juve's international players.

Claudio Ranieri's Inter lost a friendly to Lugano last weekend but the real action is against Catania, who are unbeaten in three home matches. The intense scrutiny on the Nerazzurri has returned, while Ranieri will watch from the stands after his dismissal versus Napoli.

Udinese travels to Bergamo to face Atalanta, who lost their first match of the campaign last round. Antonio Di Natale has continued his incredible goal-scoring form with four so far, but it could be a direct shootout with Orobici striker German Denis, who also has four goals to his name.

Napoli hosts Parma and like he has done previously, Walter Mazzarri may rotate his squad ahead of their upcoming Champions League match with Bayern Munich. It proved costly against Chievo, which could play into Parma's hands.

Elsewhere, Cagliari will look to build on their positive start when they host Siena, while Cesena is hoping to claim their first win when Sinisa Mihajlovic's Fiorentina visits the Stadio Dino Manuzzi. New Bologna Coach Stefano Pioli starts off against the unpredictable Novara, who have the best attack and worst defence in Serie A. Finally, the pressure is on Alberto Maleani at Genoa, who will look to get back on the winners list against Lecce following two straight defeats.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

Barcelona striker David Villa has scored his 50th international goal for Spain, with two goals in the first half against Scotland, in Spain's final Euro2012 qualifier.

With Scotland having everything to play for, needing ultimately a win against Spain to stay ahead of the Czech Republic in the race for second place, and a second chance of qualifying for the final tournament next year, by way of a play-off fixture, it was a second string Spanish team that still impressed.

With the likes of first choice stars Andres Iniesta, Cesc Fabregas and David Negredo out with injury, and the likes of

Juan Mata, Iker Casillas and Fernando Torres just warming up the bench, Spain were dominant against Scotland for the 90 minutes and are justified as strong favorites to win Euro2012.

The Spanish join Germany as the only two nations to win each and every qualifying fixture. TAB SportsBet have Spain listed as outright \$3.75 favorite, and Germany as a \$4.50 second favorite. Holland, who lost their final group match to Sweden, their only loss of points in 10 qualifying matches are out as far as \$7.

Meanwhile Spanish and Barcelona Defender Gerard Pique has rallied behind his club Coach Pep Guardiola; "I think that this Barca is the best team in history and nothing should be broken. For this reason I think that Pep has no reasons to leave and that he must continue". There is speculation that should Spain be unsuccessful in retaining their European Championship title in Poland and Ukraine next year, that Pep Guardiola will be the preferred candidate to take over from current coach Vicente Del Bosque.



David Villa scores the first of his two goals for Spain against Scotland from the spot.

Serbia miss out; Croatia through to playoffs; Greece qualify

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia

The agony is over as Serbia confirmed their place amongst the sides that will not play at the European Championships in Poland and Ukraine. The White Eagles wins were clipped in Maribor as Vladimir Petrovic's men failed to get the three points they needed for a play-off spot in a shocking 1:0 loss to Slovenia.

A few days earlier Serbia had played a good match against Italy in Belgrade which ended 1:1. Estonia defeated Northern Ireland in Belfast meaning Serbia would have to get the three points against Slovenia to book a play-off spot but they failed to do so.

Slovenia took the lead just before half-time after a spectacular Vrsic free kick from 35 yards managed to get the better of Serbia Goalkeeper Bojan Jorgacevic. The Slovenes came into the second half looking like they were the side that needed a win for a play-off birth as Serbia looked useless in all aspects of the game. The only real chance of a goal came when Aleksandar Kolarov was fouled in the box and Nemanja Vidic stepped up to take the penalty which he

missed and thus ending any hope of a Serbian fight back.

The match was also the last competitive appearance for national side skipper Dejan Stankovic who said he will retire from the red jersey. It was also the last match for Nemanja Vidic.

"It's time for a change of generations and for some older players to say goodbye to the Serbian jersey," Manchester United skipper Vidic said.

"This was my last competitive match for my country, I will play one more game and that will be my farewell to the national team," the Inter Milan midfielder said.

"Slovenia, who had only pride to play for, produced an outstanding performance while we had dropped points in places we shouldn't have before we came to what was always going to be a difficult away match in Maribor," Stankovic added.

Serbia had the quality to do much more and at least reach the play-offs but once more Serbian football is left to ponder what could have happened if the side actually played in the red shirt like they do in their club colours.

Following the failure of Partizan, Red Star and Vojvodina in continental competitions, the national side has added to the decline of Serbian football. Changes are a must from top to bottom.

Croatia

Croatia finished second behind Greece in Group F, following a 2:0 defeat in Athens. Slaven Bilic's men went into the match against Greece



Opa! Opa! Greece clinch a place at the 2012 European Championships after tight run to the finish with Croatia.

with high spirits but were left with a bitter feeling following a poor performance, one of the worst the side has played in years.

They did however overcome Latvia at home to get their confidence back up ahead of two crucial play-off matches in which Croatia is a seeded team and will come up against either Bosnia & Herzegovina, Turkey, Montenegro or Estonia.

"I am very satisfied with how we played against Latvia, It shows we only had a bad day in Athens, though it cost us a direct place at UEFA EURO 2012. I would like to congratulate my players. They showed high quality and character. Although we dominated, it was a very tough match." Slaven Bilic said.

"This team has the intelligence, courage and quality to secure a place at UEFA EURO 2012. It is very important for Croatia to go to Ukraine and Poland and we deserve to be there. I would like to thank our supporters, because this is a big win for us. It restored the players' confidence in themselves and I hope it has done the same for our fans." Bilic added.

Midfielder Luka Modric celebrated his 50th appearance for Croatia and the influential midfielder has been an instrumental part of the side. He rose to prominence at Euro 2008 with fantastic performances against Germany and Poland.

"We never doubted our class. In Greece a few days ago, we simply

failed. Now our confidence is back. The last few days have been hard for us. We are disappointed about how we played in Athens, but against Latvia we showed much more. Now we have to focus on finishing the job." Modric said

Turkey/Greece

Turkey scrapped through in second position behind Germany in Group A following a win over Azerbaijan in the last group match and thanks to Germany's win over Belgium.

The Turks failed to get a point against the Germans a few days earlier in a 3:1 loss at home and had to get the points away to Azerbaijan to secure a play-off spot and with Germany overpowering Belgium it was secured. The Turks will not be one of the seeded teams in the play-off draw and will have to take on either Croatia, Portugal, the Czech Republic or the Republic of Ireland. Trabzonspor forward Burak Yilmaz was the goalscorer in the 1:0 win against Azerbaijan and the 26 year old could not hide his delight.

"We were under high pressure, especially in the first half, we knew we could beat Azerbaijan, but there's a difference between knowing it and actually doing it. In that sense, it was quite a relief to learn that Belgium had fallen behind to Germany at half-time. That had an immediate impact on our game - we were more relaxed and sooner or later that had to result in us scoring," said Yilmaz, the leading marksman in the Turkish Super League this season.

Greece had a lot of work to do against

Georgia in Tbilisi. Following their victory over Croatia in Athens the blue and whites where buoyant to finish off the qualifying campaign on top spot and confirm their ticket to the European Championships. Georgia led until the last 15 minutes when Greece scored two goals within a few minutes from Fotakis and Euro 2004 hero Charisteas sent the Greeks to the finals. It was a fantastic qualifying campaign for Greece and their Portuguese manager Fernando Santos as they won seven of the ten matches and went throughout the campaign undefeated.

In only their second qualifying campaign and their first for a European Championships, Montenegro reached the play-offs having finished behind England. The 'Falcons' drew with England in Podgorica having been 2:0 down Branko Brnovic's men made an amazing comeback to earn a valuable point which booked the side a play-off spot. They failed to lose against England in both encounters, the first at Wembley ended goalless.

Bosnia will look to book a finals spot in the play-offs having just narrowly finished behind France. Safet Susic's men were one foot into the finals having led 1:0 in Paris through a fantastic Edin Dzeko strike but a dubious penalty with 15 minutes remaining levelled the scores and put Bosnia back into second position. It has been another fantastic qualifying campaign for Bosnia which is now in their second consecutive play-offs.

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ENGLAND EPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Manchester United	7	6	1	0	24	5	+19	19	WDWWW
2 Manchester City	7	6	1	0	23	5	+18	19	WWDWW
3 Chelsea	7	5	1	1	17	8	+9	16	WWLWW
4 Newcastle United	7	4	3	0	9	4	+5	15	WDDDW
5 Liverpool	7	4	1	2	10	8	+2	13	WWLLW
6 Tottenham Hotspur	6	4	0	2	11	10	+1	12	WWWWL
7 Aston Villa	7	2	5	0	9	5	+4	11	WDDDD
8 Stoke City	7	2	3	2	4	8	-4	9	LDLWW
9 Norwich City	7	2	2	3	7	10	-3	8	LWWLL
10 Swansea City	7	2	2	3	6	9	-3	8	WLWLD
11 Queens Park Rangers	7	2	2	3	5	13	-8	8	LDWDL
12 Fulham	7	1	4	2	10	7	+3	7	WDDDL
13 Everton	6	2	1	3	6	8	-2	7	LLWDW
14 Wolves...	7	2	1	4	6	10	-4	7	LLLLD
15 Arsenal	7	2	1	4	10	16	-6	7	LWLWL
16 Sunderland	7	1	3	3	9	8	+1	6	DWLWD
17 West Brom	7	1	2	4	5	10	-5	5	DDLWL
18 Wigan Athletic	7	1	2	4	5	11	-6	5	LLLLW
19 Blackburn Rovers	7	1	1	5	8	17	-9	4	LLWDL
20 Bolton Wanderers	7	1	0	6	9	21	-12	3	LLLLL

GERMANY Bundesliga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern MÜNchen	8	6	1	1	21	1	+20	19	DWWWW
2 Werder Bremen	8	5	1	2	16	10	+6	16	LWDWW
3 Borussia M'gl'a...	8	5	1	2	9	4	+5	16	LWWWL
4 Schalke 04	8	5	0	3	17	13	+4	15	WWLLW
5 Hannover 96	8	4	3	1	11	10	+1	15	WDWLD
6 Borussia Dortmund	8	4	1	3	13	7	+6	13	WWLLD
7 Stuttgart	8	4	1	3	12	6	+6	13	WLWWL
8 Hoffenheim	8	4	1	3	12	7	+5	13	DLWWL
9 Bayer Leverkusen	8	4	1	3	10	11	-1	13	WLLWD
10 Hertha BSC	8	3	3	2	12	9	+3	12	WLDWW
11 Nürnberg	8	3	2	3	9	10	-1	11	DLDWW
12 Köln	8	3	1	4	13	18	-5	10	LWLWL
13 Wolfsburg	8	3	0	5	9	15	-6	9	LWLWL
14 Mainz 05	8	2	2	4	12	18	-6	8	DLLLD
15 Freiburg	8	2	1	5	13	22	-9	7	WLLWL
16 Kaiserslautern	8	1	2	5	12	-7	5	12	LLWLL
17 Augsburg	8	0	4	4	6	16	-10	4	LDDLL
18 Hamburger SV	8	1	1	6	9	20	-11	4	LWLLL

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Southampton	10	7	1	2	25	12	+13	22	WLDWW
2 Middlesbrough	10	5	5	0	13	5	+8	20	DDDDW
3 Derby County	10	6	1	3	14	11	+3	19	LDWWL
4 West Ham United	10	5	3	2	18	10	+8	18	DLWDW
5 Brighton & Hov...	10	5	2	3	16	14	+2	17	LLDLW
6 Hull City	10	5	2	3	9	9	+0	17	WDDWW
7 Blackpool	10	4	4	2	16	9	+7	16	WDLDW
8 Leicester City	10	4	4	2	13	9	+4	16	WDDWD
9 Cardiff City	10	4	4	2	13	10	+3	16	LWDDW
10 Ipswich Town	10	5	1	4	15	17	-2	16	WWDWL
11 Leeds United	9	4	2	3	17	15	+2	14	WDWWL
12 Crystal Palace	10	4	2	4	14	12	+2	14	DWLLL
13 Peterborough U...	10	4	1	5	18	15	+3	13	LWLWL
14 Burnley	9	3	3	3	13	12	+1	12	WDDL
15 Reading	10	3	3	4	11	11	+0	12	WDWL
16 Barnsley	10	2	6	2	9	9	+0	12	WDDDD
17 Birmingham City	8	3	2	3	13	13	+0	11	WDLWD
18 Watford	10	2	4	4	9	16	-7	10	LWLWD
19 Portsmouth	10	2	3	5	10	13	-3	9	LLWLL
20 Doncaster Rovers	10	2	2	6	6	14	-8	8	WDWLL
21 Nottingham Forest	10	2	2	6	10	21	-11	8	LLWLL
22 Coventry City	10	1	4	5	7	13	-6	7	LDLWL
23 Millwall	10	1	4	5	7	14	-7	7	LLDDL
24 Bristol City	10	1	3	6	8	20	-12	6	LLDLL

...Results...Results....Results....Results....Results....Results....Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...

Wednesday, 12 October 2011
International Match
Honduras 2-1 Jamaica
Mexico 1-2 Brazil
USA 0-1 Ecuador

Slovenia 1-0 Serbia
Spain 3-1 Scotland
Sweden 3-2 Netherlands
Switzerland 2-0 Montenegro
Turkey 1-0 Azerbaijan

Tuesday, 11 October 2011
European Championship Qualifying

Albania 1-1 Romania
Bulgaria 0-1 Wales
Croatia 2-0 Latvia
Denmark 2-1 Portugal
France 1-1 Bosnia-Herzegovina
Georgia 1-2 Greece
Germany 3-1 Belgium
Hungary 0-0 Finland
Italy 3-0 Northern Ireland
Kazakhstan 0-0 Austria
Lithuania 1-4 Czech Republic
Macedonia 1-1 Slovakia
Malta 0-2 Israel
Moldova 4-0 San Marino
Norway 3-1 Cyprus
Rep of Ireland 2-1 Armenia
Russia 6-0 Andorra

UEFA Under-21 Championship Qualifying
Liechtenstein U21 1-4 Rep of Ireland U21
Wales U21 0-1 Czech Rep U21

International Match
Estonia 0-2 Ukraine
Ghana 0-0 Nigeria
Poland 2-0 Belarus

Monday, 10 October 2011
UEFA Under-21 Championship Qualifying
Norway U21 1-2 England U21
Scotland U21 2-2 Austria U21

Npower League One
Oldham 2-1 MK Dons

Sunday, 9 October 2011
Npower League One
Notts County 3-0 Hartlepool
Blue Square Bet Premier
Hayes & Yeading 0-2 Wrexham

Saturday, 8 October 2011
European Championship Qualifying
Liechtenstein 0-1 Scotland

UEFA Under-21 Championship Qualifying
Wales U21 1-0 Montenegro U21

Npower League One
Bournemouth 1-1 Rochdale
Bury 2-0 Exeter
Carlisle 2-2 Brentford
Charlton 1-1 Tranmere
Colchester 2-2 Yeovil
Huddersfield 2-1 Stevenage
Scunthorpe 2-3 Leyton Orient
Sheffield Wed 3-1 Chesterfield
Wycombe 1-1 Walsall

Npower League Two
Aldershot 1-2 Macclesfield
Bradford 1-0 Torquay
Cheltenham 2-1 Dag & Red
Crewe 1-3 Southend
Gillingham 1-1 Port Vale
Morecambe 1-2 AFC Wimbledon
Northampton 0-1 Crawley Town
Oxford Utd 3-0 Bristol Rovers
Plymouth 2-2 Accrington Stanley
Rotherham 0-1 Burton Albion
Shrewsbury 3-2 Barnet
Swindon 3-3 Hereford

International Match
Costa Rica 0-1 Brazil
USA 1-0 Honduras

Friday, 7 October 2011
European Championship Qualifying
Andorra 0-2 Rep of Ireland
Armenia 4-1 Macedonia
Azerbaijan 1-4 Austria
Belgium 4-1 Kazakhstan
Bosnia-Herzegovina 5-0 Luxembourg

Cyprus 1-4 Denmark
Czech Republic 0-2 Spain
Finland 1-2 Sweden
France 3-0 Albania
Greece 2-0 Croatia
Latvia 2-0 Malta
Montenegro 2-2 England
Netherlands 1-0 Moldova
Northern Ireland 1-2 Estonia
Portugal 5-3 Iceland
Romania 2-2 Belarus
Serbia 1-1 Italy
Slovakia 0-1 Russia
Turkey 1-3 Germany
Wales 2-0 Switzerland

International Match
Australia 5-0 Malaysia
Japan 1-0 Vietnam
South Korea 2-2 Poland
Ukraine 3-0 Bulgaria

SPAIN La Liga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Barcelona	6	4	2	0	23	4	+19	14	WWDWD
2 Levante	6	4	2	0	8	3	+5	14	WWWW
3 Real Madrid	6	4	1	1	20	5	+15	13	WWDLW
4 Málaga	6	4	1	1	10	4	+6	13	WDWWW
5 Valencia	6	4	1	1	9	6	+3	13	WLDWW
6 Sevilla	6	3	3	0	6	3	+3	12	DWDWD
7 Real Betis	6	4	0	2	9	7	+2	12	LLWWW
8 Atlético Madrid	6	2	2	2	8	6	+2	8	DLWWL
9 Mallorca	6	2	1	3	5	7	-2	7	DWLLL
10 Osasuna	6	1	4	1	5	12	-7	7	DDDLW
11 Real Sociedad	6	2	1	3	7	8	-1	7	LLWLD
12 Real Zaragoza	6	1	3	2	7	13	-6	6	DDLWD
13 Villarreal	6	1	3	2	7	11	-4	6	DDWLD
14 Rayo Vallecano	6	1	3	2	6	10	-4	6	DLLWD
15 Espanyol	6	2	0	4	5	11	-6	6	LLWLW
16 Athletic Club	6	1	2	3	7	9	-2	5	WDLLL
17 Getafe	6	1	1	4	6	10	-4	4	LWLWL
18 Racing Santander	6	0	4	2	4	9	-5	4	DDDL
19 Granada	6	1	1	4	2	8	-6	4	LDLWL
20 Sporting Gijón	6	0	1	5	2	10	-8	1	LDLLL

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 AZ	8	7	0	1	21	6	+15	21	WWWWW
2 PSV	8	5	2	1	25	10	+15	17	WDDDW
3 Twente	8	5	2	1	21	9	+12	17	DDWLW
4 Ajax	8	4	3	1	21	11	+10	15	LDDWW
5 Feyenoord	8	4	2	2	16	9	+7	14	LLWWD
6 Vitesse	8	4	2	2	15	10	+5	14	DWWLL
7 RKC Waalwijk	8	4	1	3	10	9	+1	13	LWLWW
8 Groningen	8	4	1	3	13	14	-1	13	WWLLL
9 Utrecht	8	3	3	2	14	10	+4	12	WLDWW
10 Heracles	8	2	4	2	13	12	+1	10	WDDL
11 ADO Den Haag	8	3	1	4	12	13	-1	10	WWLLW
12 Heerenveen	8	2	4	2	14	16	-2	10	DDWWD
13 Roda JC	8	3	0	5	10	25	-15	9	WLLWL
14 NAC Breda	8	2	1	5	11	15	-4	7	LWLWL
15 NEC	8	2	1	5	7	14	-7	7	LLLLW
16 De Graafschap	8	1	2	5	7	19	-12	5	LLLWL
17 VVV	8	0	3	5	7	21	-14	3	LLDL
18 Excelsior	8	0	2	6	6	20	-14	2	DLLLL

LEAGUE ONE



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Charlton Athletic	12	8	4	0	24	10	+14	28	DWDWW
2 Sheffield Wedn...	12	8	1	3	23	17	+6	25	WWWWL
3 Huddersfield Town	12	6	6	0	24	10	+14	24	WWDDW
4 Milton Keynes Dons	12	6	4	2	22	12	+10	22	LWDD
5 Preston North End	10	7	1	2	22	15	+7	22	LWWWW
6 Notts County	12	7	1	4	21	14	+7	22	WLWWD
7 Sheffield United	11	6	2	3	17	10	+7	20	LLWLD
8 Brentford	12	6	2	4	17	15	+2	20	DLDWL
9 Hartlepool United	11	5	4	2	17	12	+5	19	LWLLL
10 Carlisle United	12	5	3	4	15	18	-3	18	DDWLW
11 Colchester United	12	4	5	3	18	17	+1	17	DWDL
12 Oldham Athletic	12	5	2	5	14	18	-4	17	WLLWW
13 Tranmere Rovers	12	4	4	4	12	11	+1	16	DLDWL
14 Bury	12	4	2	6	13	19	-6	14	WDDL
15 Stevenage	12	3	4	5	18	16	+2	13	LLLLW
16 Scunthorpe United	12	2	6	4	17	19	-2	12	LWDDL
17 Rochdale	12	3	3	6	15	22	-7	12	DLLWL
18 Walsall	12	2	5	5	12	14	-2	11	DDL
19 Chesterfield	12	3	2	7	14	20	-6	11	LLLWW
20 AFC Bournemouth	12	3	2	7	12	20	-8	11	DLDWW
21 Yeovil Town	12	2	3	7	14	20	-6	9	DLLLW
22 Wycombe Wanderers	12	2	3	7	11	19	-8	9	DLLWL
23 Leyton Orient	12	2	3	7	12	24	-12	9	WDDL
24 Exeter City	12	2	2	8	6	18	-12	8	LWLDD

ITALY Serie A



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Juventus	5	3	2	0	9	3	+6	11	WDDWW
2 Udinese	5	3	2	0	7	1	+6	11	WDDWW
3 Napoli	5	3	1	1	9	3	+6	10	WDLWW
4 Palermo	5	3	1	1	9	6	+3	10	WDWLW
5 Cagliari	5	3	1	1	8	5	+3	10	WDLWW
6 Roma	5	2	2	1	6	4	+2	8	WDDDL
7 Lazio	5	2	2	1	7	6	+1	8	WDWLD
8 Chievo	5	2	2	1	6	5	+1	8	DWWD
9 Fiorentina	5	2	1	2	6	4	+2	7	LDWLW
10 Genoa	5	2	1	2	9	8	+1	7	LLWWD

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